

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Loving God,
your Son, Jesus, lived and died
for all people without exception,
and so gave us an example
of how you want us to live.
See how weak we are.
Give us a share
of the strength of Jesus
so that we may help others,
especially those
who are ignored or forgotten.
We make this prayer to you
through Christ our Lord.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The focus of our readings is total love of God. Both the Old and New Testament present this as a commandment, not an option or just an ideal. One cannot be an authentic believer without following this commandment; it is at the heart of our relationship with God. The reading from Deuteronomy stresses the need to express the commandment in concrete action. The Gospel gives the two-fold commandment: love of God and love of neighbor. Love is not simply a state of mind or feeling, but a way of acting. The point of the parable is not *who* my neighbor is, but am I a real neighbor. "And which of these acted like a neighbor? Now you treat others the same way." The point of the parable is to be a neighbor.

Love God with all your heart. Love your neighbor as yourself.

FIRST READING: *Deuteronomy 30:10-14*

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said to all the people,

"Obey God.

Keep the commandments
which are written in the book of the Law.

Turn to God with all your heart
and with all your soul.

The commandment which I am giving you today
is not too hard for you to keep.

And it isn't far away where you can't reach it.
No, God's Word is very near you.

In fact, it is in your heart.

Therefore, you can know it and live it."

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: *Psalm 119*

RESPONSE:

With all my heart I turn to you. Teach me your ways, I'll fol-low you.

VERSE:

Your word, O God, is good and true. Help us all to fol-low you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Leader:

All: (sing and clap)

1. Love God with all your heart: } Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
2. Love your neigh-bor as your-self: }

GOSPEL: *Luke 10:25-37*

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

One day a lawyer came to Jesus and asked him,

"Teacher, what do I have to do
so that I will live forever?"

Jesus said,

“What did you read in the Scriptures about that?
What did you learn about it?”

The lawyer said,

“The Scriptures say,

‘You must love God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.
And you must love your neighbor
just as you love yourself.’ ”

Jesus said,

“Yes, that’s right. And if you do that, you will live forever.”

Then the lawyer said,

“But who is my neighbor? What does ‘neighbor’ mean?”

Jesus answered him by telling this story:

“One day a man was going from Jerusalem to Jericho.
On his way, some robbers came along, and they beat him,
stole his things and left him on the ground, almost dead!
After a while a priest came along, but when he saw
the man lying on the ground, he kept going.

Then a man who worked in the Temple came along.
But he also walked away and left the man lying there.

Then a man from Samaria came down that same road.
And when he saw the poor man lying on the ground,
he felt sorry for him and went over to help him.

He cleaned his cuts and put bandages on them.

Then the Samaritan lifted the man onto his donkey
and took him to an inn.

He stayed with him all night and took care of him.

The next day, when the Samaritan was leaving,
he gave some money to the owner of the inn and said,

‘Please take care of this man.

If it costs more than what I am giving you,
I will pay you the rest when I come back.’ ”

Then Jesus asked the lawyer,

“Now, which of these three people
do you think acted like a neighbor
to the man who was beaten and robbed?”

The lawyer said,

“The one who was kind and took care of him.”

Jesus said,

“Yes, that’s right.

Now go and treat others the same way.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

Invite the children to retell the story, bringing in as many details as possible. Help the children to visualize the various scenes:

- Jesus and the lawyer,
- the man on the roadside,
- the three passersby,
- the Samaritan and the man,
- the Samaritan and the owner of the inn,
- Jesus and the lawyer.

Rather than drawing out the lesson which the story states so clearly, perhaps this would be a good occasion for some children to read or tell the story, with other children playing the various characters. If you wish to prepare this ahead of time, you may have the parts written out for them.