

During this unprecedented time in our world's history, we offer you the following material for your praying and reflecting on God's Word.

Introduction - June 26, 2022

In today's Gospel, Jesus begins his final journey to Jerusalem, which will also end with his ministry in Jerusalem. Immediately Jesus is met with rejection, as a Samaritan village will not receive him because he is going to Jerusalem. There was animosity between Samaritans who worshipped on Mount Gerazim and Jews who worshiped in Jerusalem. James and John want to call down fire from heaven to destroy the people in the Samaritan village, but Jesus rebukes them and moves on. There is often the temptation to use violence to achieve right. Jesus has come to break this temptation. He is aware that he must undergo violence himself before he can enter his glory. The rest of today's reading is about the radical demands of discipleship. The three people who volunteer to become disciples on this journey show that they do not understand the demands Jesus will make of them. Neither care of self, care for the dead, nor care of one's family can come before the demands of discipleship. Jesus seems harsh here, but he is only asking of his disciples what he asks of himself. Jesus' unconditional commitment to God's saving work will demand of him his life. He knows this, but the disciples do not understand. Jesus does not want anyone to rush into discipleship, because the demands of discipleship require everyone considering it to be aware of the cost, make Jesus and his mission central to his life, and then go forward without looking back.

Lectio Divina with the Sunday Gospel

Lectio Divina means 'divine reading'. It is a way to pray using the holy scriptures in a step-by-step process. Gather the entire family around and make the sign of the Cross. Light a candle.

Leader: "Holy Spirit, you inspired the authors of Sacred Scripture to write what you wanted us to know for the sake of our salvation. Inspire us now to hear those words not only with our ears, but our hearts, so that we might know your saving Word for us today."

- Have one person **read** the scripture slowly, out loud and have a few moments of silence afterwards. (It may be helpful for everyone to have a copy of the reading).
- **Read** the scripture again out loud and choose a single word or short phrase that touches, speaks or surprises you. Share with everyone.
- **Read** the scripture out loud one more time and discuss what is happening directly in the text.
- **Meditate** on what God is doing now in our lives through this text.
- **Respond** to what God is doing through prayer.
- **Contemplate** on what God is asking of me through this text and how to use these words as a gift for others through my actions.
- After a period of silence, end with the Sign of the Cross.

(see over)

The Holy Gospel for June 26, 2022

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

When the days drew near for him to be taken up,
Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem.
And he sent messengers ahead of him,
On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans
to make ready for Jesus;
but the Samaritans did not receive him,
because his face was set toward Jerusalem.

When his disciples James and John saw it, they said,
“Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down
from heaven and consume them?”
But Jesus turned and rebuked them.
Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him,
“I will follow you wherever you go.”
And Jesus said to him,
“Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests;
but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”

To another Jesus said,
“Follow me.”
But he replied,
“Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”
But Jesus said to him,
“Let the dead bury their own dead;
but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God. “

Another said,
“I will follow you, Lord;
but let me first say farewell to those at my home.”
Jesus said to him,
“No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back
is fit for the kingdom of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

(see over)

Family Activities

- ❖ For families with young children, play a game of 'Follow the Leader'. Ask the children what it means to be a leader and a follower. In today's Gospel, Jesus describes what it means to be his follower. Jesus is the leader. Following Jesus means making the choice to put him first, above all else. Following Jesus means making God the centre of our lives. What actions can we take to put Jesus first and be a good disciple?
- ❖ Reflect on the choices that you have made today. Why did you make that choice? What were the consequences of your choices? Becoming a disciple of Jesus is a choice. You choose to follow the ways of Jesus. You choose Jesus to be the centre of your life. You choose the actions and words that reflect Jesus' teachings. You choose to spread the word of God. You choose to grow the Kingdom of God on earth. Choose a saint. Research their life and reflect on the intentional choices the saint made as a disciple of Jesus.
- ❖ Imagine yourself as one of the companions of Jesus on the way to Jerusalem. He knew what his fate would be. He knew the suffering that would come. Can we recognize in ourselves, the lack of urgency to follow Jesus? Do we make excuses of responsibilities that we need to accomplish first? Do we resort back to the familiar and known? Does fear and the unknown prevent us from growth? Jesus says that disciples must be capable and willing to leave their possessions, responsibilities and cherished relationships in order to be fully committed to the reign of God. It is the love for God that allows us to make the difficult choices.

Prayer:

**Strong and kindhearted Father,
in Jesus your Son you reveal to us how love is a gift from you
calling us to give ourselves without hesitation.
We want to be his disciples, and so we pray:
Open our ears to his call,
commit us with open hearts and hands
to follow him all the way
in faithful and joyful service
to you and to people.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen**