

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time – June 20, 2010 – Good Shepherd Parish

Scripture Reading: Zech 12:10-11; 13:1

Thus says the LORD: I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and petition; and they shall look on him whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only son, and they shall grieve over him as one grieves over a firstborn.

On that day the mourning in Jerusalem shall be as great as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo. On that day there shall be open to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, a fountain to purify from sin and uncleanness.

Psalm: Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

R. (2b) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek;
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without
water.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary
to see your power and your glory,
For your kindness is a greater good than life;
my lips shall glorify you.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Thus will I bless you while I live;
lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be
satisfied,
and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise
you.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

You are my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.
My soul clings fast to you;
your right hand upholds me.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Scripture Reading: Galatians 3:26-29

Brothers and sisters: Through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendant, heirs according to the promise.

Gospel: Luke 9:18-24

Once when Jesus was praying in solitude, and the disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, 'One of the ancient prophets has arisen.'" Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said in reply, "The Christ of God." He rebuked them and directed them not to tell this to anyone.

He said, "The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised."

Then he said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

Readings and excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass* ©1970, 1997, 1998 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., ©1997, 1981, 1968 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc., and ©1964 National Catholic Welfare Conference, Inc. Excerpts from the *Sacramentary* ©1969–1985 ICEL. Excerpts from *Living Liturgy* ©2001 The Order of St. Benedict, Inc. Clip art ©1994, 1996 The Order of St. Benedict, Inc. All rights reserved.

PARISH MISSION 2010 – July 18-20

"Advancing the Kingdom"

Loving God, you have called us together as one family of faith to advance the Kingdom of God. We ask you, Divine Spirit, to inspire and re-energize us as we prepare for our Parish Mission.

Open our hearts and help us to put aside the routine of a few days so that we might be filled more abundantly with your spirit and embrace more fully the vision Christ intended for us. For this we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time – June 20, 2010 – Good Shepherd Parish

INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God.

Proclaim the Scriptures out loud.

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

INVITATION TO REFLECT

Jesus was deep in prayer, “in solitude,” we are told. Even so, the disciples were with him. Prayer has a way of bringing people together because it joins them in their souls. Maybe the disciples were whispering so as not to disturb him. But all at once he stirred and abruptly barked out a crucial question. “Who do you say that I am?” To understand his question, you need to know the context. Jesus had sent the disciples out “to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal” ([Lk 9:1-2](#)). They did this, going from village to village, on their own for the first time, preaching the good news. Finally they returned to tell him all about it. The trip must have been effective because people all around began to speculate as to who this highly praised fellow, Jesus, was. Some thought he might be an ancient prophet raised from the dead, specifically the prophet Elijah, or maybe John the Baptist come back from the dead. This kind of gossip reached Herod himself, but Herod said he had already beheaded John, so who was this new prophet? He tried his best to get a glimpse of Jesus.

More publicity followed. Crowds began to come along with Jesus and the apostles. In a remote place he fed them by turning a few loaves and fishes into enough food for five thousand people. Very impressive. Of course it accentuated everyone’s curiosity. So Jesus, at last in quiet, abruptly asked the disciples, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” He knew that word was circulating. They told him, “Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, ‘One of the ancient prophets arisen’.” And then, at last, Jesus asked the question that meant the most to him. It is the heart of the Gospel and the root of Jesus’ heart: “But who do you say that I am?” Peter uttered this bold statement: You are “the Christ of God.”

Peter did very well in this statement, and we might think it was the ultimate triumph for God and for Jesus. What more could they want? But Jesus saw instantly that Peter’s reply was still an intermediary step. The disciples had moved beyond the gossip stage all the way to the Messiah insight. Jesus had to act quickly so that this new understanding would not become just a thoughtless category for them. He had to tell them the inside of what it meant to be Messiah. He said, “The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised.”

Notice that this statement echoes the [First Reading](#) for Sunday, written five hundred years before Christ, describes a day of mourning because of “him whom they have pierced.” We do not know much about this “suffering servant,” but we know that the text portrays Jesus’ divinity perfectly. He is the one who was to come, who would gradually teach us God’s identity, who would be the one our souls are thirsting for ([Responsorial Psalm](#)). He would descend straight into our suffering and would stay with us all the way, not turning back, not forgetting to love us. Don’t you thirst for such a one?

INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

1. Do you forgive other people if they “repent,” or do you demand more? Are there people you have offended and whom you need to ask for forgiveness? Has your country pierced individuals or groups of people? How about the Church? Is there anything can you do about the latter two?
2. There are some people who for one reason or another do not “put on Christ.” Does Christ redeem them too? Do you think God sees you praying for the ones you love who may have “taken Christ” off for a while? Maybe they are still connected as long as you’re holding on to them. Discuss.
3. Why did Jesus ask his disciples whom they thought he was? Does he ask this of you as well? Why? Is this a way to help his followers be a part of the kingdom?

INVITATION TO ACT

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another’s openness and sensitivity. Conclude with the following:

Father, guide and protector of your people, grant us an unfailing respect for your name, and keep us always in your love. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen