

# The Living Word

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

20 August 2023

## First Reading Is 56:1.6-7

*I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.*

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4**

**(R). O God, let all the nations praise you!**

1. O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)
2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

## Second Reading Rom 11:13-15. 29-32

*The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.*

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the

mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

## Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:23

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom**

**and healed all who were sick.**

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Mt 15:21-28

*Woman, you have great faith.*

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

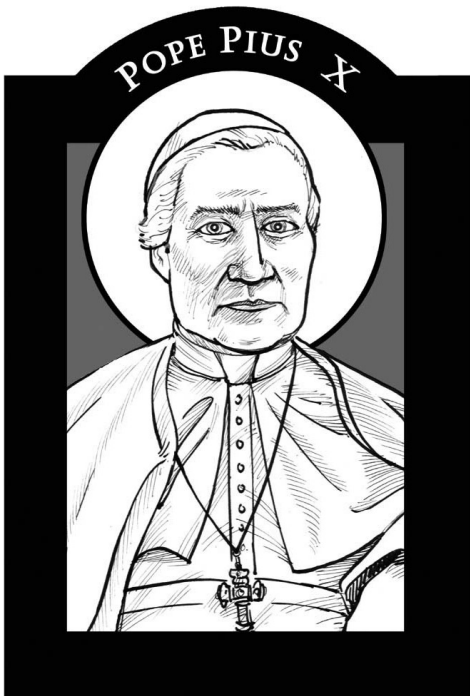


## Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The overarching theme derived from today's readings is the question of insider-outsider. We see here that the divisions and barriers that emerge out of human experience have been shattered by the graciousness of God. Jesus' openness to 'the other' finds a precedent in the prophetic tradition. Isaiah spoke of a time when outsiders would join insiders in worshipping God, thus dissolving the categories of insider and outsider. He was, of course, referring to the age of eschatological fulfilment. This age dawned with the coming of Jesus. Jesus himself moved out of the constraints of his own cultural worldview, and he directs us to do the same. People are either excluded because of gender, culture or religious perspective, or included only because they are able and willing to conform to discriminatory standards. In the reign of God, this should not be the case. People are accepted along with their own cultural profiles.

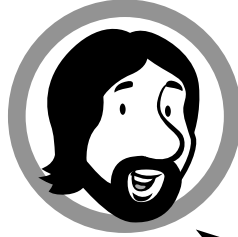
God's embrace first enclosed even those who rejected Jesus, and then God's plan of salvation unfolded in a new way. An invitation to enter the kingdom was issued to the Gentiles, those who had been considered outsiders. If outsiders are now insiders, what has happened to the former insiders? Paul insists that they are still insiders. God has not simply shifted the identifying boundaries; God has dissolved them. In the interim between the dawning of the eschatological age and the end of time, the invitation to be included remains open to all.

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**G**uiseppe Sarto was born into a poor family in 1835. From this humble beginning he was eventually elected pope in 1903. He took as his motto, "To restore all things in Christ". Pius X was remembered for many things including advocating the frequent reception of holy communion and the admission to it of children from the age of about seven; reform of church music and encouraging the use of Gregorian chant; the reform of Canon Law; the reorganization of the Roman curia; and the separation of church and state in France. He also promoted Bible reading for all Catholics and encouraged the use of clear and simple homilies. He found some aspects of the Vatican's wealth and ceremony distasteful. Before his death in 1914, Pius X wrote in his will, "I was born poor, I have lived poor, and I wish to die poor."

The Canaanite woman persisted because of her strong belief that Jesus would cure her daughter. Use the words below to find out what Jesus said.



\_\_\_\_\_, you have

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_

be \_\_\_\_\_.

granted

wish

faith

Woman

Let

great

# Crossword

## Across

- 1: very young people
- 4: Jesus described the people of Israel as like a flock of lost \_\_\_\_\_
- 5: a four-legged animal that barks
- 6: belief
- 7: father is to son, as mother is to what?
- 9: the opposite of man
- 10: what we eat

## Down

- 1: Jesus spoke to a woman who came from this place
- 2: Jesus' followers
- 3: pleaded
- 5: the woman told Jesus her daughter was full of these
- 8: cured

