

Readings for the week of August 20, 2023

Sunday:

Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (4)/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28

Monday:

Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44/Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday:

Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday:

Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16

Thursday:

Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51

Friday:

Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40

Saturday:

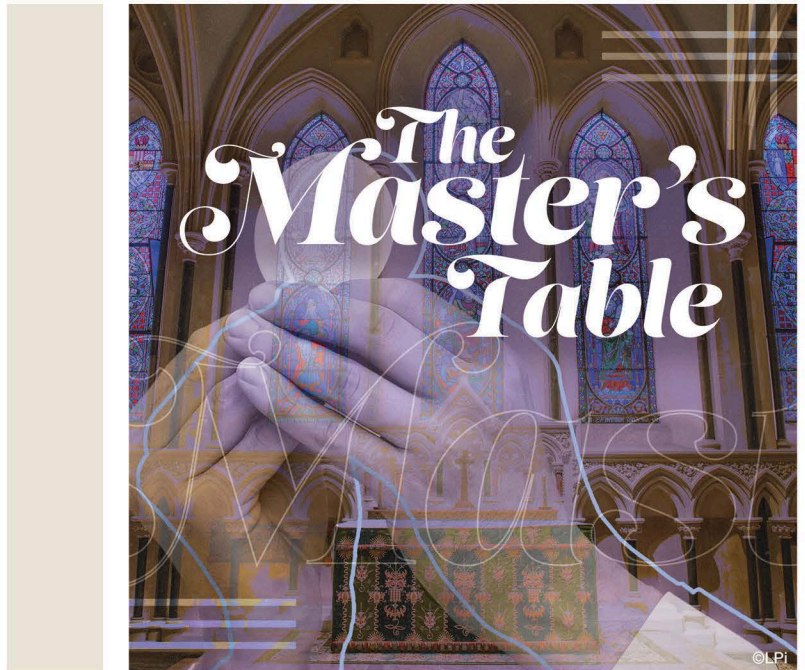
Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Mt 23:1-12

Next Sunday:

Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 (8bc)/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

The suffering of a child symbolizes uniquely terrible evil as well as despair about the future. This week's Gospel gives a "limit" case in which Jesus encounters this evil in the form of a mother with a suffering daughter. What he does is stunning and massively helpful for us if we bravely ponder the details.

The Canaanite woman comes to Jesus and begs his mercy. "My daughter is tormented by a demon," she declares to him. Shockingly, he responds first with silence, then with a dismissive comment, and only then finally accedes to her third request. Is this simply a lesson in perseverance in our petitions to God, who is like a genie in a bottle? Does that justify the humiliation and pain this woman suffers? Is the Lord cruel?

I don't think so. Notice how the encounter ends. She compares herself to a dog at the table of a master. Jesus responds by praising her great faith and fulfills her deep desire. Somehow this non-Israelite woman intuits that this harrowing situation is not dumb suffering. She senses that the door of God's family is, in Jesus, being opened to her and her loved ones. She trusts she is at the Lord's table, and her desires will be fulfilled and that all her sufferings — and her daughter's, too — will lead a great banquet. In our sufferings this week, the Lord wants us to treat him less like a genie in a bottle and more like the Master who has taken us — lost little dogs that we are — into his home forever. Trust that and keep praying in the face of evil.

— *Father John Muir*

“It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.”

She said, “Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters.”

Then Jesus said to her in reply, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And the woman’s daughter was healed from that hour.

- Mt 15:26b-28

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

The Lord instructed the prophet Isaiah to be open to “foreigners” (nations other than Israel) for God’s covenant with Israel is intended for all people. How welcoming are you to outsiders in your life?

Second Reading

Paul believed that Israel’s rejection of Jesus became a vehicle for God to reveal his mercy to all people, Jew and Gentile alike. Is there someone in your life who needs your mercy and forgiveness?

Gospel Reading

Jesus rewards the Canaanite woman for her great faith by granting the woman’s request to heal her daughter. Who would you say has helped you grow in your faith?



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“LOOK AT THIS CROSS; OH! HOW BEAUTIFUL IT IS! IT HAS BEEN MY WHOLE HAPPINESS DURING MY LIFE, AND I ADVISE YOU ALSO TO MAKE IT YOURS.”

LILY OF THE MOHAWKS

- ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA