

15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

Reading 1

**Citation: Deuteronomy, Chap. 30, Verses 10-14
Deuteronomy 30: 10-14**

Moses begins by reminding his people (how many times now?) of their duty in the covenant with God. He points out that this is their responsibility as His chosen people and that they are well aware of it if only they would look squarely at themselves. Your listeners are in a similar situation. Be Moses to them!

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people:

"If only you would heed the voice of the LORD, your God, (almost discouraged – this sentence)
and keep his commandments and statutes
that are written in this book of the law, (parenthetical tone to end of sentence?)
when you return to the LORD, your God,
with all your heart
and all your soul. (short pause)

"For this command that I enjoin on you today (admonishing; cautionary)
is not too mysterious and remote for you.

It is not up in the sky,
that you should say,
'Who will go up in the sky to get it for us and tell us of it,
that we may carry it out?'

Nor is it across the sea, that you should say,
'Who will cross the sea to get it for us and tell us of it,
that we may carry it out?'

No, (Shake your head as you say this word?)
it is something very near to you, (be encouraging)
already in your mouths and in your hearts; (be more encouraging)
you have only to carry it out." (affirmation!)

The word of the Lord.

15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Reading 2

Citation: Colossians, Chap. 1, Verses 15-20
Colossians 1: 15-20

Paul points out the role of Jesus as both the Son of God and our savior. It is an effort to convince his small church that there is so much more to existence than merely their well-being. Establishing and maintaining one's relationship with God, through Jesus, is clearly the most important element of their lives.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.

(take the reading slowly; purposefully)
(very short pause)

For in him were created all things
in heaven and on earth,
the visible and the invisible,
whether thrones
or dominions
or principalities or powers;
all things were created through him and for him.

(Paul is convinced throughout the passage; you too!)
(very short pause)
(treat as a LIST!)

He is before all things,
and in him
all things hold together.

(very short pause)

He is the head of the body,
the church.

He is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead,
that in all things he himself might be preeminent.

(very short pause)

For in him
all the fullness was pleased to dwell,
and through him
to reconcile all things for him,
making peace by the blood of his cross
through him,
whether those on earth
or those in heaven.

(voice goes up slightly)
(voice goes down)

The word of the Lord.

15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

GOSPEL

Citation: Luke, Chap. 10, Verses 25-37
Luke 10: 25-37

The Good Samaritan. You are the storyteller. There are several characters, here, and you must play each one with much sensitivity. Jesus is making an effort to teach us all what real love of neighbor is all about. Contrast your alarm at the robbery with the avoidance of the passersby with the gentle compassion of the "Samaritan" (of all people!). Be business-like with the innkeeper. Finally, be the firm Jesus with the scholar and help us feel the chagrin when even we must admit we are wrong about people we happen upon.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

There was a scholar of the law,
who stood up to test Jesus and said,

"Teacher,
what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

(is he genuine or testing Jesus?)

Jesus said to him,
"What is written in the law? How do you read it?"

He said in reply,

*"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart,
with all your being,
with all your strength,
and with all your mind,
and your neighbor as yourself."*

(recited as by rote?)

He replied to him,

"You have answered correctly; do this and you will live."

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus,

"And who is my neighbor?"

(almost sneering?)

Jesus replied,

"A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho.

They stripped and beat him

and went off leaving him half-dead.

(a note of alarm?)

A priest happened to be going down that road,

but when he saw him,

he passed by on the opposite side.

(not quite believing what the scene is)

Proclamation Format

Likewise a Levite came to the place, (can you imagine being like this?)
and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. (very short pause)

But a Samaritan traveler (surprised)
who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. (strong feeling)

He approached the victim, (with determination)
poured oil and wine over his wounds
and bandaged them. (very short pause)

Then he lifted him up on his own animal,
took him to an inn,
and cared for him. (tenderly)

The next day
he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper
with the instruction,
'Take care of him. (be the businessman)
If you spend more than what I have given you,
I shall repay you on my way back.' (short pause)

Which of these three,
in your opinion, (parenthetical)
was neighbor to the robbers' victim?"
He answered,
"The one who treated him with mercy." (scholar feels chastised?)

Jesus said to him,
"Go and do likewise." (gentle firmness)

The Gospel of the Lord.