

# 21<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

Reading 1

*Citation:* Isaiah, Chap. 66, Verses 18-21  
Isaiah 66: 18-21

**Isaiah is alerting the Israelites that God regards all of humanity as worthy of His concern. Further, He is indicating that not just Jewish priests and other ministers will lead the worship of these other humans. You must be firm although not insistent throughout the passage.**

## A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the LORD:

I know their works and their thoughts,  
and I come to gather nations of every language;  
they shall come and see my glory.

(very short pause)

(very short pause)

(convinced! short pause)

I will set a sign among them;  
from them I will send fugitives to the nations:  
to Tarshish, Put and Lud,  
Mosoch, Tubal and Javan,  
to the distant coastlands that have never heard of my fame,  
or seen my glory;

[a kind of LIST]

(short pause)

and they shall proclaim my glory among the nations.

(firm; insist)

They shall bring all your brothers and sisters  
from all the nations  
as an offering to the LORD,  
on horses and in chariots,  
in carts,  
upon mules and dromedaries,  
to Jerusalem,  
my holy mountain,  
says the LORD,  
just as the Israelites  
bring their offering to the house of the LORD in clean vessels.  
Some of these I will take as priests and Levites,  
says the LORD.

(very short pause)

[another LIST]

(very short pause)

(parenthetical)

(short pause)

(very short pause)

**The word of the Lord.**

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Reading 2

*Citation:* Hebrews, Chap. 12, Verses 5-7, 11-13  
Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13

**Be the fatherly teacher throughout. The author is attempting to be encouraging despite knowing his listeners' trials and tribulations (i.e. persecution). The same, in a way, can be said today about your fellow pilgrims.**

### A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters,

You have forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as children: (short pause)

"My son, (very short pause)  
do not disdain the discipline of the Lord (fatherly, gentle voice)  
or lose heart  
when reprov'd by him; (very short pause)  
for whom the Lord loves,  
he disciplines; (very short pause)  
he scourges every son he acknowledges." (short pause)

Endure your trials as "discipline";  
God treats you as sons. (almost parenthetical)  
For what "son" is there whom his father does not discipline? (very short pause)

At the time,  
all discipline seems a cause not for joy  
but for pain,  
yet later  
it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness  
to those who are trained by it. (short pause)

So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. ( build confidence with each  
Make straight paths for your feet, ( phrase in this sentence; (pause)  
that what is lame may not be disjointed (  
but healed. ( very confident

**The word of the Lord.**

## 21<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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GOSPEL

*Citation:* Luke, Chap. 13, Verses 22-30  
Luke 13: 22-30

**Another approach to the idea of last being first, etc. The exchange between the master of the house and the "friend" is very serious, emotion-laden, and key to understanding the passage. Be forceful, and solicitous as appropriate, here. The passage ends with Jesus' warning to his fellow-Jews that they must change their understanding of God's Covenant with them. End with a forceful (although not necessarily loud) statement from Jesus.**

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus passed through towns and villages,  
teaching as he went  
and making his way to Jerusalem.

(voice goes down slightly)

Someone asked him,  
"Lord, will only a few people be saved?"

(a sincere question)

He answered them,  
"Strive to enter through the narrow gate,  
for many, I tell you,  
will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.

After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, (the consequence of assuming too much!)  
then will you stand outside knocking and saying, "  
'Lord, open the door for us.'  
(raise volume; petition in voice)

He will say to you in reply,  
'I do not know where you are from.'

(firm)

And you will say,  
'We ate and drank in your company  
and you taught in our streets.'

("Why, don't you know?" attitude)  
" " (short pause)

Then he will say to you,  
'I do not know where you are from.'

(raise volume some)

Depart from me, all you evildoers!'

(raise volume more; be angry!)

And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth  
when you see Abraham,  
Isaac, and Jacob  
and all the prophets in the kingdom of God  
and you yourselves cast out.

(short pause)

And people will come from the east and the west  
and from the north and the south

**Proclaim the Word!**

**Proclamation Format**

and will recline at table in the kingdom of God.

(voice goes down a bit)

For behold,  
some are last who will be first,  
and some are first who will be last."

(voice goes up; slower pace)

(voice goes down)

**The Gospel of the Lord.**