



Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

Open on
8 December 2015,
Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception

Close on
20 November 2016,
Solemnity of
Christ the King



See **Luke 6:36:**
Be merciful, just as [also]
your Father is merciful
[NAB].



Lectionary for Mass,
Year C - the year
for reading the
Gospel of Luke

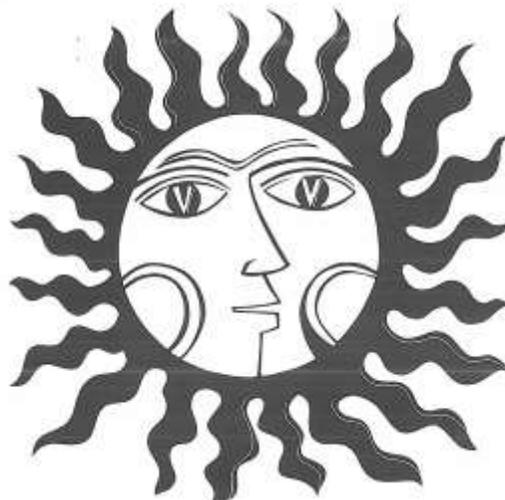
Sunday Prayer Shaping Life and Belief in the JUBILEE OF MERCY

◆ Ordinary Time in Year C ◆ 14th – 22nd Sundays July-August 2016

The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy can be a new year for the Sundays and big Feastdays to enrich our lives. The *Lectionary for Mass* Year C presents us with the Gospel of Luke and the good news of mercy. Week by week and season by season, the Church will unfold – by means of readings, prayers, and liturgical music – the great mystery of Christ. Use these seasonal booklets as preparation for preaching and catechesis, as inspiration for prayer and reflection, as help for thinking of and doing mercy works.



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Summer, Steve Erspamer.

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<p>Excerpts from the English translation of the Introduction, Psalm responses, and Titles of the Readings from the <i>Lectionary for Mass</i>, second typical edition © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL); the English translation of the <i>Liturgy of the Hours</i> © 1970, 1973, 1975, ICEL; the English translation of <i>The Roman Missal, Third Edition</i>, © 2010, ICEL; and the English translation of <i>Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar</i>, © 2010 ICEL. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.</p> <p>Excerpts from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, <i>Homiletic Directory</i>, © 2014, Libreria Editrice Vaticana (LEV), Vatican City State.</p> <p>Art: Steve Erspamer, SM [now Martin Erspamer, OSB], <i>Clip Art for Year C</i>, © 1994, Archdiocese of Chicago. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.</p> <p>Parishes and institutions may reprint and post this booklet and excerpts from it with no additional request for permission. Common copyright 2015, Eliot Kapitan and the Office for Worship and the Catechumenate, Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.</p>	<p>3 Concerning the Liturgical Time</p> <p>4 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time • 03 July 2016</p> <p>4-5 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time • 10 July 2016</p> <p>6 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time • 17 July 2016</p> <p>6-7 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time • 24 July 2016</p> <p>8 Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time • 31 July 2016</p> <p>8-9 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time • 07 August 2016</p> <p>10 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time • 14 August 2016</p> <p>10-11 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary • At the Vigil Mass • Mass during the Day</p> <p>12&13 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time • 21 August 2016</p> <p>12 Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time • 28 August 2016</p> <p>14-16 Bulletin Shorts for July-August 2016</p>
<p>BB = <i>Book of Blessings</i> CCC = <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> CDWDS = Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments CSL = <i>Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy</i> FDLC = Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions HD = CDWDS, <i>Homiletic Directory</i> LM = <i>Lectionary for Mass</i> LMIntro = <i>Lectionary for Mass</i>, Introduction RM3 = <i>Roman Missal, Third Edition</i> UNLYC = <i>Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar</i> USCCB = United States Conference of Catholic Bishops</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">◆ ◆ ◆</p>  <p>CRS Preaching Resources provides good help for select days in the Jubilee of Mercy. The briefs for the 15th, 17th, 19th, and 21st Sundays in Ordinary Time are excerpt on pages 5, 7, 9, and 13 below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home page: http://www.crs.org/ • Or Resource Center, Year of Mercy materials, http://www.crs.org/resource-center/solr-search?f%5B0%5D=field_liturgical_calendar%3A5830 then open Homily helps “Preaching Resources” by Fr. Ron Chochol. • Contact the diocesan Office for the Missions and Victoria Compton for additional help: vcompton@dio.org.

Concerning the Liturgical Time

◆ *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*

102. ...Within the cycle of a year, moreover, the Church unfolds the whole mystery of Christ ... Recalling thus the mysteries of redemption, the Church opens to the faithful the riches of the Lord's powers and merits, so that these are in some way made present in every age in order that the faithful may lay hold on them and be filled with grace.

◆ *Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar*

II. The Cycle of the Year

17. Over the course of the year the Church celebrates the whole mystery of Christ, from the Incarnation to Pentecost Day and the days of waiting for the Advent of the Lord.

VI. Ordinary Time

43. Besides the times of the year that have their own distinctive character, there remain in the yearly cycle thirty-three or thirty-four weeks in which no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather, the mystery of Christ itself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as Ordinary Time.

◆ *Lectionary for Mass, Introduction*

5. Ordinary Time

a) THE ARRANGEMENT AND CHOICE OF TEXTS

103. Ordinary Time begins on the Monday after the Sunday following 6 January [Baptism of the Lord]; it lasts until the Tuesday before Lent inclusive. It begins again on the Monday after Pentecost Sunday and finishes before evening prayer I of the First Sunday of Advent.

The Order of Readings provides readings for thirty-four Sundays and the weeks following them....

b) THE SUNDAY READINGS

105. On the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

the Gospel continues to center on the manifestation of the Lord which is celebrated on the Solemnity of the Epiphany....

Beginning on the Third Sunday, there is a semicontinuous reading of the Synoptic Gospels. This reading is arranged in such a way that as the Lord's life and preaching unfold the doctrine proper to each of these Gospels is presented.

This distribution also provides a certain coordination between the meaning of each Gospel and the progress of the liturgical year. Thus after Epiphany the readings are on the beginning of the Lord's preaching and they fit in well with Christ's baptism and the first events in which he manifests himself. The liturgical year leads quite naturally to a conclusion in the eschatological theme proper to the last Sundays, since the chapters of the Synoptics that precede the account of the Passion treat this eschatological theme rather extensively....

c) THE OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

106. These readings have been chosen to correspond to the Gospel passages in order to avoid an excessive diversity between the readings of different Masses and above all to bring out the unity between the Old and the New Testaments....

To the degree possible, the readings were chosen in such a way that they would be short and easy to grasp....

b) THE READINGS FROM THE APOSTLES

107. There is a semicontinuous reading of the Letters of Paul and James (the Letters of Peter and John being read during the Easter and Christmas seasons).

Because it is quite long and deals with such diverse issues, the First Letter to the Corinthians has been spread over the three years of the cycle at the beginning of Ordinary Time. It also was thought best to divide the Letter to the Hebrews into two parts; the first part is read in Year B and the second in Year C.

Only readings that are short and readily grasped by the people have been chosen.

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C
LM, no. 102C
03 July 2016

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C
LM, no. 105C
10 July 2016

Scripture Readings

Lectionary for Mass

Isaiah 66:10-14c – Behold, I will spread prosperity over her like a river.
Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 – (1) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.
Galatians 6:14-18 – I bear the marks of Jesus on my body.
Alleluia – Colossians 3:15a, 16a
Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 – Your peace will rest on that person.

USCCB link to Lectionary Texts:

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/070316.cfm>

CDWDS, *Homiletic Directory*, Appendix

The Kingdom of God is at hand

- CCC, nos. 541-546

The Apostles, united to the mission of Christ

- CCC, nos. 787, 858-859

“The laborer deserves his food”

- CCC, no. 2122

“Your Kingdom come”

- CCC, nos. 2816-2821

The Cross as the way to follow Christ

- CCC, nos. 555, 1816, 2015



Comfort. Steve Erspamer.

Scripture Readings

Lectionary for Mass

Deuteronomy 30:10-14 – **The word is very near to you:** you have only to carry it out.
Psalm 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37 – (cf. 33)
Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.
OR Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11 – (9a) Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.
Colossians 1:15-20 – All things were created through him and for him.
Alleluia – cf. John 6:63c, 68c
Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.
Luke 10:25-37 – **Who is my neighbor?**

USCCB link to Lectionary Texts:

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/071016.cfm>

CDWDS, *Homiletic Directory*, Appendix

Viewing neighbor as another self

- CCC, nos. 1931-1933

Corporal works of mercy

- CCC, no. 2447



“Who is my neighbor?” Steve Erspamer.

Catholic Relief Services Homily Resources – an excerpt

See the CRS links on page 2 above. Contact the Office for the Missions for additional resources.



Preaching Resources

CRS HOMILY RESOURCES FOR SELECT SUNDAYS AND FEASTS IN THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

by Fr. Ron Chochol

INTRODUCTION

The following resources draw on images and insights found in *Misericordiae Vultus*, the Bull of Indiction of Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, and on the mission and work of Catholic Relief Services. They are designed to assist the preacher in relating the Scriptures for the days selected to our individual and community practices of mercy during the Jubilee Year. Each reflection has a brief summary of the Gospel for that day (from Year C), an **image of mercy**, an illustration from the mission and work of CRS, and examples of one or more practices from the traditional list of corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

NOTE: Quotes from the Bull of Indiction are referenced by its initials—MV—and section number and paragraph; e.g., MV #24-2. For further information about the Jubilee Year, consult *Jubilee of Mercy*, the website sponsored by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. Preachers may also want to draw a congregation's attention to the numerous references to God's mercy found in the Eucharistic Prayers, especially the four for Various Needs and Occasions.

July 10, 2016

The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Gospel today starts with a problem and an answer. It ends by turning our world upside down. The story of the Good Samaritan, which Jesus uses to answer the question of the man trained in the Mosaic law as to who is his neighbor, has become one of the most well-known in religious literature. It shows us the **face of mercy** on the last person the Jewish victim would have expected it from. The story also shows us that we are entering the **mystery of mercy** when we realize that “neighbor” is not a passive object, a noun, but rather a dynamic source for others; that is, a verb. When we are grasped by that conversion, we are caught up in the great **mystery of mercy**. And that is what CRS does. On our behalf, it becomes a neighbor to others wherever, whenever they are in need. CRS not only helps others, but also enables them to become life-giving neighbors to others in their own communities. Thus we can begin to see the corporal and spiritual works of mercy not as burdens, but as spiritual blessings.

<p>Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C LM, no. 108C 17 July 2016</p>	<p>Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C LM, no. 111C 24 July 2016</p>
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Scripture Readings	Scripture Readings
<p>Lectionary for Mass Genesis 18:1-10a – Lord, do not go on past your servant. Psalm 15:2-3, 3-4, 5 – (1a) He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord. Colossians 1:24-28 – The mystery hidden from ages has now been manifested to his holy ones. Alleluia – cf. Luke 8:15 Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance. Luke 10:38-42 – Martha welcomed him. Mary has chosen the better part.</p> <p>USCCB link to Lectionary Texts: http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/071716.cfm</p> <p>CDWDS, Homiletic Directory, Appendix Abraham’s hospitality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC, no. 2571 <p>Welcome the stranger</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC, no. 2241  <p><i>Hospitality.</i> Steve Erspamer.</p>	<p>Lectionary for Mass Genesis 18:20-31 – Let not my Lord grow angry if I speak. Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8 – (3a) Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me. Colossians 2:12-14 – God has brought you to life along with Christ, having forgiven us all our transgressions. Alleluia – Romans 8:15bc You have received a Spirit of adoption, through which we cry, Abba, Father. Luke 11:1-13 – Ask and you will receive.</p> <p>USCCB link to Lectionary Texts: http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/072416.cfm</p> <p>CDWDS, Homiletic Directory, Appendix Prayer of intercession</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC, nos. 2634-2636 <p>Universal call to prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC, nos. 2566-2567 <p>The Lord’s Prayer as a synthesis of Gospel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC, nos. 2761-2772 <p>Turning to God with persistence and filial trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC, nos. 2609-2610, 2613, 2777-2785  <p><i>Ask. Seek. Knock..</i> Steve Erspamer.</p>

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JULY 24, 2016

The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Gospel for this Sunday offers many **gifts of mercy** for those who open their hearts to the God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is the source of mercy. Jesus shows us how our lives will be touched by divine mercy when we practice mercy toward others. CRS is present to and works with millions of people around the world. We are always ready to respond immediately and generously to those overwhelmed by natural disasters or the effects of human violence. Sometimes we can find ourselves challenged to move out of our comfort zone to help others. We can see this as a burden, or as an opportunity to offer **gifts of mercy** to others. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy are genuine opportunities given to us by God.

<p>Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C LM, no. 114C 31 July 2016</p>	<p>Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C LM, no. 117C 07 August 2016</p>
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Scripture Readings	Scripture Readings
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Lectionary for Mass
 Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23 – What profit comes to a man from all his toil?
 Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13 – (8) **If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**
 Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11 – Seek what is above, where Christ is.
 Alleluia – Matthew 5:3
 Blessed are the poor in spirit,
 for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Luke 12:13-21 – The things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?

USCCB link to Lectionary Texts:
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/073116.cfm>

CDWDS, Homiletic Directory, Appendix
 Hope for a new heaven and a new earth
 • CCC, nos. 661, 1042-1050, 1821
 The disorder of covetousness
 • CCC, nos. 2535-2540, 2547, 2728



What will I store? Steve Erspamer.

Lectionary for Mass
 Wisdom 18:6-9 – Just as you punished our adversaries, you glorified us whom you had summoned.
 Psalm 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22 – (12b) Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.
 Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 – Abraham looked forward to the city whose architect and maker is God.
 Alleluia – Matthew 24:42a, 44
 Stay awake and be ready!
 For you do not know on what day the Son of Man will come.
 Luke 12:32-48 – You also must be prepared.

USCCB link to Lectionary Texts:
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/080716.cfm>

CDWDS, Homiletic Directory, Appendix
 The obedience of faith
 • CCC, nos. 144-149
 The virtue of hope
 • CCC, nos. 1817-1821
 Prayer as humble vigilance of heart
 • CCC, nos. 2729-2733
 Abraham, a model of faith
 • CCC, nos. 144-146, 165, 2572, 2676



Wait in faith. Steve Erspamer.

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AUGUST 7, 2016

The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Gospel reading for today, whether the long or short form, offers us images of how to be truly human in God's eyes. But the first paragraph, in the long form, is particularly striking. It addresses those of us who are fearful of threats, violence or even people who are different from us. Jesus reassures us that we have no need to fear anything, since our Father has given us everything we need to live a deeply human life. This mercy of God is a never-failing treasure. And then Jesus tells us how to live a fully human life: "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." If we have a **heart of mercy** as the Father does, our lives will be a treasure for others, and ourselves. If we take the time to go to the CRS website, we will find our treasure—the people around the world whom we have the opportunity to serve. We will be inspired by their stories of faith, hope, love and endurance. Although we will be not be able to see them up close and personal, we can see others who are like them in our own towns and cities. Engaging in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy locally will enable us to open our **hearts of mercy** to our global neighbors.

<p>Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C LM, no. 120C 14 August 2016</p>	<p>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity At the Vigil Mass LM, no. 621 15 August</p>
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Scripture Readings	Scripture Readings
<p>Lectionary for Mass Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10 – A man of strife and contention to all the land. Psalms 40:2, 3, 4, 18 – (14b) Lord, come to my aid! Hebrews 12:1-4 – Let us persevere in running the race that lies before us. Alleluia – John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Luke 12:49-53 – I have come not to establish peace, but rather division.</p> <p>USCCB link to Lectionary Texts: http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/081416.cfm</p> <p>CDWDS, Homiletic Directory, Appendix Christ, a sign of contradiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC, nos. 575-576 A disciple should witness to the faith with boldness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC, no. 1816 Giving testimony to the truth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC, nos. 2471-2474 Our communion with the saints <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC, nos. 946-957, 1370, 2683-2684 Sacred images remind us of the “cloud of witnesses” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC, no. 1161 </p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Lord will come to my aid. Steve Erspamer.</i></p>	<p>Lectionary for Mass 1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2 – They brought in the ark of God and set it within the tent which David had pitched for it. Psalm 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14 – (8) Lord, go to the place of your rest, you and the ark of your holiness. 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57 – God gave us the victory through Jesus Christ. Alleluia – Luke 11:28 Blessed are they who hear the word of God and observe it. Luke 11:27-28 – Blessed is the womb that carried you!</p> <p>USCCB link to Lectionary Texts: http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/081516-vigil.cfm</p> <p>CDWDS, Homiletic Directory, Appendix Mary, the New Eve, assumed into heaven <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC, nos. 411, 966-971, 974-975, 2853 Mary, eschatological icon of the Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC, nos. 773, 829, 967, 972 At prayer with Mary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC, nos. 2673-2679 </p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Arc. Steve Erspamer.</i></p>

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, **Solemnity**

Mass during the Day

LM, no. 622

15 August



Art, *The Magnificat*, James J. Tissot, 1836-1902, opaque watercolor over graphite on gray wove paper. Held by the Brooklyn Museum.

Scripture Readings

Lectionary for Mass

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab – A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet.

Psalms 45:10, 11, 12, 16 – (10bc) The queen stands at your right hand arrayed in gold.

1 Corinthians 15:20-27 – Christ, the firstfruits; then those who belong to him.

Alleluia –

Mary is taken up to heaven;
a chorus of angels exults.

Luke 1:39-56 – The almighty has done great things for me: he has raised up the lowly.

USCCB link to Lectionary Texts:

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/081516-mass-during-day.cfm>

CDWDS, *Homiletic Directory*, Appendix

Mary, the New Eve, assumed into heaven

- CCC, nos. 411, 966-971, 974-975, 2853

Mary, eschatological icon of the Church

- CCC, nos. 773, 829, 967, 972

At prayer with Mary

- CCC, nos. 2673-2679

<p>Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C LM, no. 123C 21 August 2016</p>	<p>Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C LM, no. 126C 28 August 2016</p>
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Scripture Readings	Scripture Readings
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Lectionary for Mass

Isaiah 66:18-21 – They shall bring all your brothers and sisters from all the nations.
 Psalm 117:1, 2 – (Mark 16:15) Go out to all the world and tell the good news.
 Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 – Those whom the Lord loves, he disciplines.
 Alleluia – John 14:6
 I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord;
 no one comes to the Father, except through me.
 Luke 13:22-30 – They will come from the east and west and recline at table in the kingdom of God.

USCCB link to Lectionary Texts:
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/082116.cfm>

**CDWDS, Homiletic Directory, Appendix
 All called to enter the Kingdom**

- CCC, nos. 543-546
- Do the Father’s will to enter the Kingdom**
- CCC, nos. 2825-2826-2827



On pilgrimage to the Kingdom. Steve Erspamer.

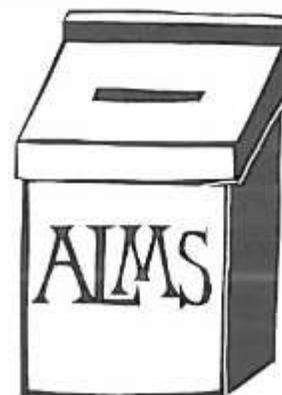
Lectionary for Mass

Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29 – **Humble yourself** and you will find favor with God.
Psalm 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11 – (cf. 11b) **God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.**
 Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a – You have approached Mount Zion and the city of the loving God.
 Alleluia – Matthew 11:29a
 Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord, and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.
 Luke 14:1, 7-14 – Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, everyone who humbles himself will be exalted.

USCCB link to Lectionary Texts:
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/082816.cfm>

CDWDS, Homiletic Directory, Appendix

- The Incarnation as a mystery of humility
- CCC, nos. 525-526
- Prayer calls for **humility and poverty of spirit**
- CCC, nos. 2546, 2559, 2631, 2713
- Our participation in the heavenly liturgy
- CCC, nos. 1090, 1137-1139



Giving, Steve Erspamer.

Catholic Relief Services Homily Resources – an excerpt

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Preaching Resources

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AUGUST 21, 2016

The Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Whether we consider the “narrow door” to salvation or the door that the master of the house locks to keep out evildoers, we are given an image of the **doors of mercy**. This image reminds us of how the Jubilee Year of Mercy began last December when Pope Francis opened the doors of mercy at the major basilicas in Rome. We can enter through these doors wherever we are. But more important, we can open **doors of mercy** to help others around the world through CRS. We support educational programs for AIDS orphans that open doors to a better future. And we encourage people around the world to start Savings and Internal Lending Communities, which offer a safe place to save small sums of money, and a fair and reliable place to get loans so families and communities can become self-sufficient. At home we can open **doors of mercy** by working with ex-offenders who are trying to start a new life. And we can encourage others to open doors for them through work, housing and dignity.

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**FDLC Mystagogy on Mass Texts.**

The Collect and the Prayer after Communion are rich sources for our Christian life. These reflections may be downloaded and printed for free. A link for the July-August Ordinary Time booklet is:

<http://www.dio.org/worship/mystagogy.html>

**Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 03 July 2016**

Be sensuous. Be bold. Be sent. Two great stories are heard today. Isaiah invites us to look around and notice how a mother comforts her child. God says to Israel: “That’s exactly how I comfort you.” And God says it to us today! So let us be bold and be like God. Give comfort. Luke invites us to go ahead of the Lord, just like the 72 sent out to the nations. Say “Peace.” Then take care of the sick. Can we be bold just like them?

- Who needs comfort today? What will I do?
- Who is sick? What peace and comfort will I bring?
- How will I be bold?

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 10 July 2016

Mercy has a face. Some hospitals in our region have a corps of volunteers called Good Samaritans. They do all manner of kindness so that the sick can get the care, the treatment they need. Mercy has the face of real live people, those who (1) love God, (2) love self, and (3) love the other by being the neighbor. We hear Moses, in the fifth book (Deuteronomy) for God’s Chosen People, say to them – and now to us today: this command to love like God is not too mysterious or remote.

- Who needs my acts of love today – perhaps even beyond my close circle of family and friends?
- Who needs a ride to church, to doctor, to grocery that I can give?
- How can I manifest the mystery of mercy by being a face of mercy?

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 17 July 2016

I am amazed by this story! Abraham, sitting at this doorway under a tree, sees three strangers approach. He runs to greet them. He sees to the bathing of their tired dusty feet. He sits them down under his tree. He feeds them. They engage in conversation. The story is a little ambiguous, but Abraham comes to know them as someone(s) divine. He responds with lavish hospitality. Perhaps my mercy work this week is wrestling with these discipleship questions:

- How will I greet and treat strangers?
- How can I, who can I literally bathe or “bathe” with kindness?
- Who will I feed dinner?

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Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 24 July 2016

Ask. Seek. Knock. Do you know someone who is just so relentless? He tirelessly makes his point! She keeps at it and does not back down. They ask ... and ask again ... and yet again! Abraham, the merciful one, is just like that – reread of his persistence in Genesis 18:20-32. The friend is just like that, too, in Luke 11:1-13. And Jesus tells all who hear, and that is us today as well, be just like that in addressing God. Ask. Seek. Knock. Few words, fewer actions, great persistence.

- How will my prayer be persistent this week?
- For whom and for what will I pray?
- How can I respond like God and open my door (and my heart), give food to the hungry, bargain for the innocent?

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 31 July 2016

Don't be hard hearted. We have all heard stories of relatives who fight over an estate or a supposed inheritance. Luke recounts the Jesus parable of packing away so many possessions in order to “rest, eat, drink, be merry!” It is Jesus who said to the crowd, and says to us today: “One’s life does not consist in possessions.” On hearing Christ, the logical philosopher lays out this syllogism: (1) Guard against all greed; (2) because life does not consist of possessions; (3) therefore, give away somethings, some time, some effort, some of self.

- What things can I give away?
- What time and effort can I expend to another?
- How will I reuse, use up, recycle?

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 07August 2016

Hard but clear words today. Jesus tells his beloved “little flock” – that includes us – to sell belongings and give alms. Do not be afraid. Sell. Give. Yet, we are sometimes afraid to let go, to give away. I really like this, we say. I might need it later, we say. Since we are numbered among his disciples, what Jesus said to Peter and to the rest of the Followers, he says to us:

- Do not fear!
- Give alms!
- Be ready to act for the benefit of others; be ready to do what is good!
- So, this week, I will _____!

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**Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 14 August 2016**

We are not alone. In this great mercy work, we are not alone. The Letter to the Hebrews (12:1-4) declares we can run the race, we can live the Christian life, we can keep our eyes fixed on Jesus because we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses. We are not alone. We who eat and drink Christ's Blood and Body are "conformed to his image on earth" in order to not only look like him but also be like him.

- Who is lonely, cut off, alone, and needs my visit?
- Who can I surround with my witness and comfort?

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Monday, 15 August 2016

Let us say with Mary: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time – 21 August 2016

Here comes everybody. The entry to the kingdom of God, to heaven is described as passage through a narrow gate. But the path to it is pretty wide. It has to be, because this roadway has room for the nations of every language, sisters and brothers from everywhere. This is our pilgrimage – helping one another on the path to the kingdom, to our final home, to God.

- Who will be my companions this week?
- Who needs my help down this common road to heaven?

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 28 August 2016

Who to invite? We have all had the task of making the guest list for a dinner, a cookout, a wedding, the Christmas cards. Who is on it? Who is crossed off? Who must we invite? Who can't be seated next to whom? You know it all! Jesus, however, upsets our list making tasks today. He tells his host – and thus us – invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind. In short, invite everyone, especially those who probably cannot invite you back.

- Who do I need to invite over for coffee, for lunch?
- Who can I include in some outing, project, or conversation?