



Parish Community of Saint Helen

Small Groups



The Thirteenth Sunday in OT
June 26th, 2022

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Lord,
Every day You call us to follow You in different ways by serving others. If we worthily receive the True Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist, You will strengthen us at every “now” of the coming week to more closely follow Jesus, in order to live more fully, bearing the peace of our heavenly Father.
We pray, in your name, Amen

Song

[The Summons](#)

Scripture

Reading I

1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21

The LORD said to Elijah:
“You shall anoint Elisha, son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah,
as prophet to succeed you.”

Elijah set out and came upon Elisha, son of Shaphat,
as he was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen;
he was following the twelfth.
Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak over him.
Elisha left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said,
“Please, let me kiss my father and mother goodbye,
and I will follow you.”
Elijah answered, “Go back!
Have I done anything to you?”
Elisha left him, and taking the yoke of oxen, slaughtered them;
he used the plowing equipment for fuel to boil their flesh,
and gave it to his people to eat.
Then Elisha left and followed Elijah as his attendant.

Reading II

Gal 5:1, 13-18

Brothers and sisters:

For freedom Christ set us free;
so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.

For you were called for freedom, brothers and sisters.
But do not use this freedom
as an opportunity for the flesh;
rather, serve one another through love.
For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement,
namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
But if you go on biting and devouring one another,
beware that you are not consumed by one another.

I say, then: live by the Spirit
and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh.
For the flesh has desires against the Spirit,
and the Spirit against the flesh;
these are opposed to each other,
so that you may not do what you want.
But if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Gospel

Lk 9:51-62

When the days for Jesus' being taken up were fulfilled,
he resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem,
and he sent messengers ahead of him.
On the way they entered a Samaritan village
to prepare for his reception there,
but they would not welcome him
because the destination of his journey was Jerusalem.
When the disciples James and John saw this they asked,
"Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven
to consume them?"
Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they journeyed to another village.

As they were proceeding on their journey someone said to him,
"I will follow you wherever you go."
Jesus answered him,
"Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests,
but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head."

And to another he said, "Follow me."
But he replied, "Lord, let me go first and bury my father."
But he answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead.
But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."
And another said, "I will follow you, Lord,
but first let me say farewell to my family at home."
To him Jesus said, "No one who sets a hand to the plow

and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God.”

REFLECTION

All three of our scripture readings this Sunday support the idea that looking forward to what is ahead deserves more attention than looking back to what is behind.

In our First Reading (1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21), we hear how the Prophet Elijah is ordered by God to anoint Elisha to succeed him. When Elijah places his cloak upon him, Elisha learns that his future would be about delivering the message of God rather than plowing fields.

Seeing the future that awaits him, Elisha puts the past behind him, moves forward into the future, and follows Elijah as his attendant. There would be no looking back,

In the Second Reading (Galatians 5:1, 13-18), Saint Paul warns the Christians of Galatia “not to submit again to the yoke of slavery.” Christ has sent them free. They were not to look back to the past and the demands of the Mosaic law. Rather, they were to move forward in their newfound freedom in Christ, serve one another in love, and live by the Spirit.

In the Gospel reading (Luke 9:51-62), we read that Jesus was moving forward, determined to journey to Jerusalem. His eyes were set on his destination, where he would prove himself to be God’s faithful and obedient Son and would overcome the power of sin and death.

When his way through a Samaritan village was blocked because the people learned he was traveling to Jerusalem, Jesus simply “journeyed to another village.” Jesus knew where he wanted to go and no one would stop him. As he explained later in the Gospel, “I must continue on my way today, tomorrow, and the following day, for it is impossible that a prophet should die outside of Jerusalem.” (Luke 13:33)

As we heard in Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus meets potential disciples as he goes along his way. Jesus tells them if they wish to join him, they must look to the future that awaits them as his followers and not to past relationships and obligations that may hold them back. As he says, “No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God.”

This past Sunday, we are challenged to consider where we are looking as we journey through our lives: Are we looking in the rearview mirror at our past sins, failures, mistakes, and missed opportunities?

Or are we looking forward and trying to see the kind of person that God wants us to become? Are we striving to discern what God desires us to do to hasten the coming of his kingdom? Are we seeking to recognize what we must leave behind to grow as followers of Christ?

Each time we start or end a day, we might ask ourselves, Do I know where I am going in my spiritual life? Do I see the way to my final destination?

Please take some time to reflect on the Message:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ParishCommunityofSaintHelen>

Scroll down to find the 10:00 AM mass and listen to the message.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

1. What motivates my actions – is it self-serving (fleshly) desires or is it a willingness to serve others in the name of the Lord Jesus, following the lead of the Spirit?
2. Is there a particular aspect of my life to which I cling (and to which I am enslaved) and prevents me from being a full follower of the Lord Jesus?
3. What harvest (fruit) of the Holy Spirit (peace, love, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, self-control, humility, joy, etc.) would enable me to commit myself more fully to the service of others in the name of the Lord Jesus?
4. Do I know where I am going in my spiritual life? Do I see the way to my final destination?
5. We are challenged to consider where we are looking as we journey through our lives: Are we looking in the rearview mirror at our past sins, failures, mistakes, and missed opportunities? Or looking forward to the person God wants us to be?

CLOSING SONG

[Follow Me \(Danielle Rose\)](#)

CLOSING PRAYER

Blessed are You, LORD GOD, our inheritance. Through Your goodness, You promise to give us more than we can imagine and more than we could ever deserve. All You ask of us is to freely choose to follow Your Son in loving service of others. Yet in and of ourselves, we are so enslaved to the ways of the world and the flesh that we fall into sin. We come before You to seek forgiveness and the further outpouring of Your Holy Spirit, so that we can lovingly submit to being disciples of Your Son. Let Your Holy Spirit remind us of the freedom we have as Your daughters and sons, brothers and sisters of Your Son, Jesus. May we follow the lead of our Master-Teacher and seek to serve those whom You have entrusted to our care. We give You all the glory, honor, and praise as we respond to Your Son's invitation and the prompting of Your Holy Spirit, for You – together with Your Son and the Holy Spirit – are our one and only GOD, and our inheritance, for ever and ever. Amen.

LOOKING AHEAD

Click here to look ahead to the Readings for next Sunday, July 3rd.

Scripture Readings :

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/070322.cfm?https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/070322.cfm>

Consider the following questions:

1. What are the readings trying to convey this weekend?
2. How have I grown as a disciple recently?
3. Who do I need to bring the Good News to?
4. Where do I find joy in my baptismal mission?