



➤ Sunday ➤ Scripture Study



The Sunday Scripture fellowship group follows the early Christians' example, who *"devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers"* (Acts 2:42).

They gather weekly to read and discuss the upcoming Sunday's Mass readings to allow the Lord to transform their hearts and lives through His word, spiritual companionship, and shared community life.

THANK YOU

Thank you for subscribing to Our Spiritual Family's weekly Sunday Scripture Study! The study guide with the readings and discussion questions will be sent to you via email in a PDF attachment the Monday before the upcoming Sunday.

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Twentieth Sunday

ORDINARY TIME | YEAR A

"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

OPENING PRAYER

The Collect

O God, who have prepared for those who love you
good things which no eye can see,
fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so
that, loving you in all things and above all things,
we may attain your promises,
which surpass every human desire.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Old Testament Context

Part of the core revelation of the Old Testament is that the people of Israel are God's chosen people, and that the Messiah will be sent to save "*the lost sheep of the house of Israel*" (Matthew 15: 24). Yet in the time after the Babylonian Exile, we start to hear in prophetic words that God will open his house to "*all the nations*" of the earth. The exile is over when people of all nations begin to come to the Lord's house. These foreigners will do three things to join themselves to the Lord: minister to him, love his name, and become his servants. When we see this happening, we know that the Lord's salvation is about to come and his justice is about to be revealed. In fulfillment of these Old Testament prophecies, we know that the Church, established by Christ, is the place where the Lord gathers the nations, both Gentiles and Jews, to himself.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7

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1. According to this passage, how could foreigners “*join themselves to the Lord,*” and what does the Lord promise to do in response?
 2. How do you join yourself to the Lord in your daily life?
 3. Why is the Lord’s house considered “*a house of prayer for all peoples?*” How is this message foreshadowed in Isaiah 49:6?
 4. There is a sense of impending arrival in the first verse of this reading. What do you think the prophet was foretelling?

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 67: 2-6 and 8

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1. What does the psalmist pray for in this psalm?
 2. What is significant about the psalmist praying that “*all the nations*” praise God and exult him?
 3. Is God’s salvation and his ways known among all nations?

SECOND READING

**Romans 11: 13-15,
29-32**

1. In this passage, what message is Paul speaking to the Gentiles?
2. How do you think God sees and responds to our disobedience in light of Paul's teaching?
3. What themes from the first reading are reflected in this reading?

GOSPEL

Matthew 15: 21-28

1. Why do you think Jesus responded to the Canaanite woman in this way?
2. What do the woman's words and actions reveal about her faith?
3. What was the biblical relationship between the Jews and the Canaanites?



I give you my hands to do your work.
I give you my feet to go your way.
I give you my tongue to speak your words.
I give you my mind that you may think in me.
I give you my spirit that you may pray in me,
Above all, **I give you my heart** that you may
love in me—your Father and all mankind.
I give you my whole self that you may grow in me,
so that it is you, Lord Jesus,
Who live and work and pray in me.



PRAYER'S AUTHOR UNKNOWN

PRAYER INTENTIONS
