

Call to Worship 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time- Catherine Hughes

The readings before us today are filled with gifts and opportunities. What we hear in the first reading are verses of comfort, when we experience them as God's gift of love to us and how we might lovingly respond to God. There is no mystery where to find these gifts. God has already put them in our mouths and our hearts. We need only to be grateful and giving in return.

In today's culture that is beset with racism and violence, we need to pay close attention to today's Gospel of the Good Samaritan which teaches that compassion is truly the heart of the law. Jesus instructs us that, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all you being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." A question before us might be, "Who, indeed, is our neighbor?"

Do we see our neighbors as those who are similar to us? They might think and act the way we do while sharing similar values. Or can we see our neighbor as someone who is down and out? Someone much less fortunate than we and we are challenged to care for him.

These days, when life is so hurried, can we find the time to connect with ourselves, let alone each other? Can we find the time to be nourished, so that we can nourish others? When life is flying before us, can we see what we need to see, let alone see others in need? Might it be important for us to slow down in order to share with those who are struggling and be able to extend compassion and work to heal those in pain?

When we are hurting, Jesus takes us in his embrace, heals our wounds, and sends us on our way. We are asked to "Go and do the likewise."

How will we be called this week? How will we answer that call?