

Call to Worship, Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary time, Cycle B

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Our readings today invite us to embrace our faith – to choose once again to be a people whose faith is active and alive in and through the daily events of our lives.

In the gospel readings these last few weeks we have seen the people of Jesus' day whining and complaining because they could not understand all that Jesus was saying. In today's passage we see people leaving Jesus and going back to their former ways. They said that these things were too hard to accept. Jesus asks his disciples, "Will you leave me too?"

In the first reading Joshua is asking the people of his day what they will do – will they choose to stay in relationship with their God – a God who had always been faithful to them. But circumstances have changed for the Israelite people – they now live in a new place. Shall they also worship a new god? For Joshua, he and his family will serve the God of his ancestors.

What about you and me today? Do we lack understanding and so perhaps find our faith hard to accept? Have the circumstances of our lives changed – perhaps we are entering into a time of empty nest, or we are changing careers, or off to a new school. Perhaps we are living with aging parents or sick children.

With all that is going on in our lives, where do we choose to put our faith and our hope and our trust today? In whom? Let us pray that like St. Peter we may say to Jesus, "To whom shall we go? You alone have the words of everlasting life."