

He unrolled the scroll and
found the passage where
it was written:
“The Spirit of the Lord is
upon me,
because he has anointed
me
to bring glad tidings to
the poor....”
Luke 4

Twenty-Second Week of Ordinary Time: Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 2009

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Twenty-Second Week of Ordinary Time

On the **Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time** Jesus is challenged because his disciples don't follow the ritual washings, he defends them, quoting Isaiah: "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." Jesus calls us to an inner cleanliness: "From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile."

Thursday is the **Memorial of Saint Gregory the Great, pope and doctor of the Church.**

Paul's **First Letter to the Thessalonians** concludes on Tuesday and on Wednesday, we begin a week of readings from the **Letter to the Colossians**, with its gracious salutation and encouragement. The readers are exhorted to see Christ as the "head of the body" noting that all is created "in and through him."

We now move from Matthew to **Luke's Gospel**, which we will read on weekdays from now until Advent begins. We will feel the special way the evangelist will

Daily Prayer This Week

As we get into this pattern of letting the readings interact with the desires of our hearts, one week flows into the next. So, we begin this week continuing to reflect on the purpose of our lives. We can measure our resistance to self-denial for the sake of loving others more and ask for the Lord's healing and grace.

Our pattern of finding intimacy with our Lord in the unique context of our busy, complicated days begins with a morning moment of focus, the earlier the better. Soon after we wake up, we can pause briefly to give a faith filled shape to our day. While making coffee, starting a load of wash, taking a shower, getting dressed, we can begin our day with the Lord, begin our day in a relationship. At first, it may take practice to replace what usually goes on in our heads and hearts, with this kind of prayerful desiring. It can quickly become a very natural way to anticipate, plan and prepare for our day.

Reading this guide over the weekend or early in the week helps, as does reading the [Daily Reflection](#) for the day. But these resources work best when they provide a support for our inner conversation with the Lord as we go

highlight healing, mercy, the poor, women, prayer, the Spirit and a gospel for a new, all inclusive, Israel.

Jesus teaches in the synagogue and reads from Isaiah: "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus heals a man with demons. He heals Simon's mother-in-law, and all the sick they brought him. "I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent." He calls out to three discouraged fishermen to lower their nets, to show them his power. Peter is overwhelmed and protests he is unworthy. "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." At Jesus' persistence, Peter, James and John leave their nets to follow Jesus. The week ends with Jesus' tangling with the Pharisees who challenge the fasting of his disciples. "Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?" He deflects the criticism by telling them "no one pours new wine into old wineskins." When his critics note that his disciples were "unlawful" by picking heads of grains to eat, he tells them, "The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath."

On the **Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time**. Isaiah offers comforting words: "Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you." In **Mark's gospel**, Jesus heals a deaf and mute man. The people are astonished and say of Jesus, "He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

through the real experiences, relationships, conflicts and challenges of our day. Then the scriptures, the unique details of our lives, and the desires of our hearts simply come together in an ongoing dialogue with the Lord that takes place in the background of our days and shapes our choices and reveals deeper desires.

This week, we might ask Jesus to confront the demons that seem to dominate the upcoming week. We may have many mothers-in-law or friends that need healing that we can entrust to the Lord's care. We might experience discouragement in our work as spouses or parents or in our jobs or ministries and take the opportunity to ask the Lord to show us his power there. And, when we are tempted to feel unworthy or to be humbled by the task ahead, we can let Jesus call us again to follow him. Perhaps this week we will feel the call to a real renewal, to not just keep trying to pour new wine into our old wineskins but to ask the Lord to make us new, and ready for the new calls, new graces he is offering us. Hopefully, we can find a few moments every evening to look back on these days of connecting with our Lord, and to express our gratitude for his presence and the new freedom and graces we are receiving.

By Saturday, we might find ourselves turning to Mary to ask for the graces we need from our Lord. "I thank God for your life, Mary. Please place me with your Son."

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