



# PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

*Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee*

*July 2021*

## GREEN...GREEN...

It's the growing time. Green is everywhere. Where there is drought, just one rainfall and the grass smiles green. So it is, in this our North Temperate Zone. Green says, "Go!" to us. It also says "growing." And so it is also in the season of the liturgical year where we find ourselves.

The liturgical color of our Sundays is green. We might ask, "What is growing?" Good question. Jesus gives us some good clues. "The sower went out to sow..." A lot of growing comes from seeds. Long ago for most of us, at the time our lives were new, we were carried off to Church where water was poured over our foreheads, and we received our 'union card,' our baptismal certificate, that is. Water baptism is the most explicit sign that we are 'in the family' of believers, those for whom God will be the center of their lives. We are 'christened.' We are joined to Christ Jesus. One way of understanding what this means is that the humble turf of our humanness is 'seeded' with the Christ-life. And the life Christ Jesus lives is risen life. It's a life of transformed humanness.

Pondering this can make you catch your breath. Because you now belong to him, and he has 'seeded' you with his own risen life, that life is growing in you day by day, year by year. Right... just like the farmer who sows his seed and then goes to bed. One morning he wakes up and finds his field green...green! We've come a long way since that water was poured over our heads to water that new life. The Church now gives us a long 'ordinary' time to look for growth from the risen life planted in us by our Shepherd.

The scriptures of the green time will invite us to be good farmers. They will call us to check for weeds and point out sound cultivation techniques. Above all, they will keep refocusing our gaze on the one who has paid so dearly for our new life, the one who never leaves our side.



**A YOKE IS FOR TWO-  
ME AND YOU.  
YOU ASK ME TO TAKE IT ON...  
AND THAT MEANS WE TEND THE FIELD OF MY LIFE  
TOGETHER.  
I MUST ADMIT I'M GLAD YOU'RE THERE.  
I OFTEN FORGET,  
AND THINK I'M WORKING THIS FIELD ALL ALONE.  
WHEN I'M A DRAG ON MY SIDE OF THIS THING ROUND OUR NECKS,  
REMINDE ME THAT YOUR LOVE MAKES THIS YOKE EASY AND THE BURDEN LIGHT.**

*Thank you to S. Janet Ackerman for this month's reflections.*

**July 4, 2021 | Fourteenth Sun. Ordinary Time | Ezekiel 2: 2 -5 2 Corinthians 12: 7 -10**

“As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered into me and set me on my feet...” Ezekiel heard, “I am sending you.” By entering into our prophetic role of preaching we, like Jesus, will not be accepted among our own kin. We have been anointed to preach anyway, even in our weakness. For when I am weak, then I am strong says Paul. “Hard of face and obstinate of heart are they to whom I am sending you.” These aren’t very comforting words, yet we are sent! Contemplate for a moment where you are being sent, where you get your power to preach, and how you preach with your life, your presence. “My grace is sufficient for you.”

**July 11, 2021 | Fifteenth Sun. Ordinary Time | Amos 7: 12 – 15, Mark 6: 7 – 13**

“Go prophesy to my people Israel.” In yet another Sunday we find ourselves confronting our own weakness as we prophesy and preach. Amos answers Amaziah that he was no prophet, but a shepherd and dresser of sycamores. The Lord said to him, “Go prophesy to my people Israel.” This echoes Paul from last Sunday telling us when we are weak, then we are strong. How Dominican the gospel sounds this Sunday, being sent out two by two, journeying lightly, and in whatever place that does not welcome or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them. The disciples then went off and preached repentance. Does this give you pause to ask, why repentance? What is it you preach with your life?

**July 18, 2021 | Sixteenth Sun. Ordinary Time | Jeremiah 23: 1 – 6, Ephesians 2: 13 – 18, Mark 6: 30 – 34**

“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” This was one way Jesus, the compassionate shepherd is shepherding his disciples, as he welcomes them back from their long and tiring missionary journey. When Jesus saw the vast crowds his heart was moved with pity. When was your heart moved with pity for God’s people? Mark reminds us that this shepherd’s compassion will be fulfilled when he lays down his life for his sheep. Jeremiah sounds off a rebuke against the shepherds who have not cared for the sheep and he promises, “I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them,” referring to raising up David as king to govern his people. The second reading from Ephesians continues to show how Paul wants to demonstrate to the people ways Jesus shepherds by bringing them closer both to God and to each other. How are you bringing people closer to God and each other?

**July 25, 2021 | Seventeenth Sun. Ordinary Time | 2 Kings 4: 42 – 44 John 6: 1 – 15**

In today’s Gospel we see how God prophetically visited his people by providing food in abundance, so they had more than they could eat. The people’s response, “This is truly the Prophet.” Along with the first reading we are surprised at a God who insists on showering us with abundant gifts. The alleluia verse pulls these readings together. “A great prophet has arisen in your midst and God has visited his people.” What is your response to God’s visit to you today?