

# Read

Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Psalm 69:14, 17, 30-31,  
33-34, 36a, 37 or  
Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11

Colossians 1:15-20

Luke 10:25-37



## REFLECTION

The Good Samaritan offers the gift of unexpected compassion. But this isn't any old random act of kindness. This is a Samaritan tending to the suffering in Judea—his compassion is unexpected because he is unwelcome, an "other" who the majority crowd wanted to keep out.

One pressing example of Good Samaritans in today's world are migrants. After enduring a treacherous journey into a foreign land, immigrants who arrive in this country offer communities across the United States of America gifts of unexpected compassion everyday through public service in hospitals, factories, farms, and more. Like the Good Samaritan, these brave men and women risk their livelihood on an unsafe road for the greater good. So how are they to be treated?

Jesus' message in today's Gospel is clear: love your neighbor. Love your neighbor as yourself. Second only to loving God, the call to love our neighbors—all our neighbors—is Christ's crystal-clear message. It can be easy to politicize this call or make excuses for who deserves or does not deserve our love. But Jesus makes no exceptions: love your neighbor, period.

## QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ Where do you encounter Good Samaritans today?
- ❖ What makes it difficult to be a Good Samaritan? How can you overcome these roadblocks?

# LIVING THE WORD

## Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 10, 2022

## ACTION

The crisis of migration demands action from all people of faith and good will. The United States bishops have led the way in efforts to uphold the dignity of migrants coming into this country. No matter where you live, you have a role to play in the migration issue. Call your local senator and demand they treat migrants with respect. Explore the Catholic Relief Services website to learn more about this crisis and ways you can be involved in showing loving respect and compassion to every individual.



<https://www.crs.org/get-involved/lead-way/migration>



July 10, 2022

# FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## LECTIONARY #105C

Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Psalm 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36a, 37 or

Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11

Colossians 1:15-20

Luke 10:25-37

## Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

### Leader's Context

Once again, Jesus' commitment to the law is tested in this week's Gospel reading. Luke integrates frequent Jewish references, including the *Shema* (Deut. 6:4-5) which is quoted by the scholar in today's Gospel. Jesus' parable is full of political and religious tension; the road from Jerusalem to Jericho is in Judea, so a Samaritan would have been a particularly unwelcome outsider. The priest and the Levite, who are important religious figures, pass by in order to uphold ritual purity laws so they could continue their worship practices (see Leviticus), but the Samaritan looks past the tension in culture and religion for the sake of compassion and mercy.

**Q FOCUS:** We are called to let mercy and love guide our actions.

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

During Ordinary Time, we hear Gospel readings that instruct us on the ways of living our Christian discipleship. St. Benedict of Nursia, who lived in the sixth century, helped people come to a deeper understanding of what it means to follow Christ by creating a "rule" (way of life) for those in his monastic community. The *Rule of St. Benedict* is focused on Christian hospitality and prayer, so that all our work is a reflection of Christ's love for others. This rule is the foundational document for all Benedictine communities. We celebrate St. Benedict on July 11.

### Church Teaching Connection

Catholic social teaching (CST) is one of the hidden gems of the Church's doctrine. The story of the Good Samaritan vividly highlights themes of CST, particularly solidarity, the life and dignity of the human person, and the call to community. Pope Francis writes that, "When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a person with disabilities—to offer just a few examples—it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected" (*Laudato si'*, 117). God made all of creation and found it good; therefore, we are called to see the inherent dignity and value of every person, animal, and all of creation.

## Hear the Word

Use this resource, a lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

### Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

Luke 10:25-37

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live."

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn, and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

**Reader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Everyone may be seated.*

## Reflect on the Word

*When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:*

► How would you answer the scholar's question in today's Gospel: "Who is my neighbor"?

Too often we separate ourselves into cliques, groups, in-crowds, and out-crowds. Consider some of the unspoken "rules" that exist at your school, extracurricular activities, or even within your own friend group. Would it shock your friends or family to see you go out of your way to, like the Samaritan in today's Gospel, show an "outsider" mercy? At the start of each Mass, we gather in community, sign ourselves with the cross, and communally confess our sins. In both this ritual and the Sacrament of

Reconciliation, we call to mind not only things that we have done, but times when our inaction was sinful, too. Whether as obvious and stark as the priest and Levite who pass by the man in need, or a more subtle passing-over, we commit these smaller sins of avoidance and/or ignorance every day.

► What social norms or other factors might stand in the way of someone your age reaching out to a person in need or taking action to help those who are marginalized?

The "hero" of Jesus' parable is, of course, the "Good Samaritan." In Jesus' telling of it, the Samaritan is the only one of the three passersby who is "moved with compassion"—his heart is moved to respond to the man in need! This detail is significant, as hearers of this story would understand that Samaritans were unwelcome in Judea, on this very road from Jerusalem to Jericho, and any Samaritans listening would consider the Samaritan man a traitor for travelling this road (he was possibly worshipping in Jerusalem?), as well as helping a non-Samaritan in such a profound way.

► When have you been "moved with compassion" and acted for someone? How did this feel?

► Who are the Good Samaritans of our time?

The answer to the question of who my neighbor is becomes clear at the end of the Gospel reading: the one who acted out of mercy is the man's neighbor. The others, a priest and a Levite (both of whom are religious leaders and figures), are not his neighbor. Christian disciples are called to be neighbors to all people, like this Good Samaritan, regardless of culture, race, sexual orientation, gender, religious belief, or ability. Christians are asked to rise above differences and show mercy, particularly in situations where it is the most challenging. While mercy can often be seen as a vague idea, Jesus translates it as the sort of active, "neighbor-love" shown in today's Gospel.

► What does it mean to show another person mercy?

► What can you do this week to practice neighbor-love?

## Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the "Church Teaching Connection" on page 222.

**Mercy and love for our neighbors innately includes upholding human dignity.**

**As disciples, we must pay attention to the movement of our hearts, since compassion leads to action.**

**Catholic social teaching starts with the practice of reaching out to those in need in daily life.**

## Act on the Word

### Who Is My Neighbor?

For this activity, you will need to prepare a short lesson on Catholic social teaching; information and helpful tools can be found on Catholic Relief Services' website, <https://www.crs.org/resource-center/CST-101>. For the activity itself, you will need internet access, newspapers, magazines, poster board, glue, and other art supplies as available.

If the teens are not familiar with Catholic social teaching (see Church Teaching Connection, above), begin the activity by sharing some of its principles with them. More information about Catholic social teaching can be found on Catholic Relief Services' website at <https://www.crs.org/resource-center/CST-101>.

In this activity, the young people will continue to reflect on the question "Who is my neighbor?" Organize teens into small groups. Instruct them to find relevant news stories, images, and headlines that illustrate those in need in your community, nation,

and more broadly in the world. Each group is to create a collage of these stories, focusing on the question "Who most needs to be shown mercy and neighbor-love?"

At the bottom of their posters, ask each group to brainstorm and illustrate ways that they can respond to each situation in need. It need not be a dramatic response, such as putting out a fire or starting a soup kitchen; encourage teens to think in small but necessary steps that they can feasibly take. Have each group present collages and action plans to the class, or even to the entire parish or school to encourage widespread awareness and response to these dire situations.

### Closing Prayer

*Creator of all,  
to love you, we must also love our  
neighbor as ourselves  
and be as merciful to others as you are  
toward us.*

*Remove whatever hinders our living your  
command to love  
and help us model your loving case as  
clearly as did the Samaritan.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

### For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at [www.ltp.org/lwgr](http://www.ltp.org/lwgr). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.