



## BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF CHICAGO

Reflections for the 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 15, 2024  
Sister Judith Murphy

Isaiah 50: 4c-9a  
Psalm 116: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9  
James 2: 14-18  
Mark 8: 27-35

In today's opening we prayed, "So that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart." (It has been said that the heart is the chief feature of a functioning mind.) Today's readings remind us that at each step along the way, our God is there for us. We remember God's past mercies and we are grateful.

The first reading, from Second Isaiah, finds the people of God having been taken into exile; the prophet finds them to be in darkness and asks that they remember to trust, to say with the prophet: "God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced."

- We recently revisited our vulnerability as a nation in commemorating 23 years since the attacks of 9/11: and we walk before the Lord in the land of the living.
- We live with the ebb and flow of the threats of the global pandemic: and we place our hope in our God.

Storms and other disasters pervade the twenty-four hour news cycle and keep us aware of the vulnerability of our earth itself: and we strive to be informed and responsible about climate change. We try to understand the impact climate change has *even on global migration*, bringing refugees and asylum seekers to our borders and our city. And as Benedictines we strive to better learn an attitude of *Radical Hospitality* toward new neighbors and among ourselves.

We are working closely together to take on the changes and challenge of moving, of right-sizing our housing: and we are grateful for all the blessings of community now and in years past, while trusting also for the future.

Through it all we are reminded to **remember God's past mercies**.

James' letter reminds us today of the connection between faith and works, believing and doing, calling us to be doers of the word. Benedict would say: **Listen** to the Word and hear-- and our response can be to become what we hear. By doing the word, we become people of the word.

Our journey of faith, of Baptism, starts with the invitation to trust the Christ—which we celebrated together so beautifully in the days of Holy Week as we renewed our baptism, renewing our trust in Christ. Today, with the apostles, we are asked: Who is Jesus the Christ for us? Being people of the Word, can we boast in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ? We strive to know the Christ by putting on the Christ. Jesus, God's beloved Son, came for us-- to teach us how to be human. Teaching us that we too are beloved daughters and sons of God.

May we continue to grow in learning to serve—and trust-- our God with all our heart, as we bring ourselves and our concerns, as always, *to this table of the Lord*.