

About the Readings on 6.2.24

Sunday, May 29–June 4

The year continues, each Sunday holding a text from Mark or John about the meaning of Christ next to the hidden though transformative power of the resurrection in Holy Communion.

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

This reading is chosen to give background to the dispute in Mark about sabbath. Early Christians were renowned for their care for the poor. This version of the Third Commandment reminds us to heed and honor those who work for us. God has a mighty hand, whereas we, in one way or another, have a withered hand. The other version of this commandment (Ex. 20:8-11) was read thirteen weeks ago, on Lent 3.

The Psalm for the Day

Hearing the commandment to keep sabbath, we respond by singing **Psalm 81:1-10**, in which God is praised for saving us from slavery. The psalm begins and concludes lauding the might of God. Jewish tradition associated this psalm with the Feast of Tabernacles, which recalled God's protection of the people during their years as nomads. In some ways we too are nomads.

2 Corinthians 4:5-12

For these six Sundays we read semi-continuously through 2 Corinthians. Like the Jews, we are no longer slaves of earthly masters, but we are slaves of one another in Christ. Paul challenges the church to adopt a countercultural understanding of leadership.

Mark 2:23—3:6

For Christians, the focus and meaning of any and all religious exercises is Christ. Life in Christ is pictured as the repair of a nonfunctioning hand, as God's intended creation restored.