

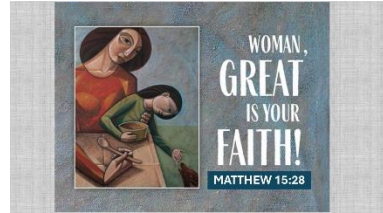
The Readings on This Day

****Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

Sunday, August 14–20

Lectionary 20

Our Sundays continue, the word in Matthew and Romans, and the sacrament in bread and wine.



[Isaiah 56:1, 6-8](#)

The poem from Third Isaiah is appointed here to ground Jesus' openness to the Gentile in a similar message of Israelite tradition. This text invites Christians to welcome the stranger into the covenant in Christ.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

In response to Isaiah's oracle predicting that also foreigners will be accepted by God, we sing [Psalm 67](#), which asks God's blessings on all the nations of the earth. According to the ancient Jewish poet, most Christians are persons of these other nations.

[Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32](#)

This next appointed passage in Romans coordinates well with the first reading and the gospel. Isaiah and Matthew open the tradition to the Gentile, while Paul defends the place of the Jew in the mercy of God.

to save us, and with the disciples we acclaim him the Son of God. "Do not be afraid," Jesus says both to the disciples in the boat and to the women at the empty tomb.

[Matthew 15:\[10-20\] 21-28](#)

The optional first half of the reading repeats the Matthean theme of the interiority of righteousness. Such biblical passages were central to the development of the Christian doctrine of sin. The narrative of the Canaanite woman, so odd in its

depiction of Jesus, indicates Matthew's understanding that, despite the emphasis on righteousness in the kingdom of heaven, faith in Christ is what saves. Much Christian interpretation has explained away Jesus' talk by claiming he was merely testing her faith, although Matthew does not say this.