



LIVING IN THE LIGHT

The Word

## **Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Week of August 14*

### ***Call to Prayer and Sharing***

✦ *Leader invites all into a few moments of silent reflection to remember that we are in the presence of God. (reflective pause)*

✦ *Then: “In the name of the Father and of the Son . . . .”*

### ***The Word of God***

✦ *Leader reads part or all of one of the scripture texts from the previous Sunday.*

Hebrews 12: 1 - 4

Brothers and sisters:

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,  
let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us  
and persevere in running the race that lies before us  
while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus,  
the leader and perfecter of faith.

For the sake of the joy that lay before him  
he endured the cross, despising its shame,  
and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God.

Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners,  
in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart.

In your struggle against sin  
you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood.

### ***Faith Sharing***

- ✦ *Leader reminds everyone of the Question of the Week which relates to the particular group gathered . . . .*

**Child:** What are some things that you can do to be more like Jesus?

**Teens:** What are some issues that you have faced where your friends and/or society have said something is okay but our faith would disagree? How can our faith help to resolve these issues?

**Adult:**

We offer this form of contemplative sharing for pondering Scripture while considering the question, and for the faith sharing which follows.

- Listen/ Read (Lectio): Ponder God's word and listen for what touches your heart.
- Meditate (Meditatio): Notice what you notice. Allow God's word to resonate in you.
- Speak/Share (Oratio): Prayerfully share with the group your thoughts and feelings.
- Rest in God's presence (Contemplatio): Notice God's presence and be still, surrounded by God's love.

*Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow about 15 minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of three or four for faith sharing.*

- ✦ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*
- ✦ *Continue with the meeting, turning to the agenda.*

### ***Concluding the meeting***

*At the end of the meeting, the leader closes with the following prayer:*

Good and Gracious God, your love for us surpasses all understanding.  
As we leave here today, be with us in all our comings and goings,  
and in all that we say and do.  
We pray this in the name of Christ Jesus who is our Light.  
Amen.