



LIVING IN THE LIGHT

## The Word

### Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Week of November 4*

#### ***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.*

Mark 12: 28 - 34

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him,  
"Which is the first of all the commandments?"  
Jesus replied, "The first is this:  
Hear, O Israel!  
The Lord our God is Lord alone!  
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul,  
with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.  
The second is this:  
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.  
There is no other commandment greater than these."  
The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher.  
You are right in saying,  
'He is One and there is no other than he.'  
And 'to love him with all your heart,  
with all your understanding,  
with all your strength,  
and to love your neighbor as yourself'  
is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."  
And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding,  
he said to him,  
"You are not far from the kingdom of God."  
And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

### ***Faith Sharing***

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

**Children:** What are some ways you show that you love God and your neighbor with your whole heart?

**Teens:** How do I demonstrate to my friends and family that I love them?

**Adults:** Why is love of neighbor as important as love of God?

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.