



LIVING IN THE LIGHT

## The Word

### 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time *Week of August 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.*

Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus,  
"Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me."  
He replied to him,  
"Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?"  
Then he said to the crowd,  
"Take care to guard against all greed,  
for though one may be rich,  
one's life does not consist of possessions."

Then he told them a parable.  
"There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest.  
He asked himself, 'What shall I do,  
for I do not have space to store my harvest?'  
And he said, 'This is what I shall do:  
I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones.  
There I shall store all my grain and other goods  
and I shall say to myself, 'Now as for you,  
you have so many good things stored up for many years,  
rest, eat, drink, be merry!'"  
But God said to him,  
'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you;  
and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?'  
Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves  
but are not rich in what matters to God."

#### ***Faith Sharing***

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

**Children:** What gifts do you have that you use to help others?

**Teens:** What helps you notice the needs of others? How do you respond to the needs you see?

**Adults:** How do/can you use your time, talent and treasure to help those who are less fortunate?

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.
- Choose to act (Actio): Trusting in God's nearness, commit to action rooted in 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.