

8th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

1st. Reading (Hos 2,16-17.21-22)

So I am going to allure her, lead her once more into the desert, where I can speak to her tenderly. Then I will give back her vineyards, make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will answer me as in her youth, as when she came out of the land of Egypt. You will be my spouse forever, betrothed in justice and integrity; we will be united in love and tenderness. I will espouse you in faithfulness and you will come to know Yahweh.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 103)

Bless the Lord, my soul; all my being,
bless his holy name!
Bless the Lord, my soul,
and do not forget all his kindness;

He forgives all your sins
and heals all your sickness;
He redeems your life from destruction
and crowns you with love and compassion;

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
abounding in love and slow to anger;
He does not treat us according to our sins,
nor does he punish us as we deserve.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove from us our sins.
As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord pities those who fear him.

2nd. Reading (2Cor 3,1-6)

Am I again commending myself? Or do I need to present to you letters of recommendation as some do; or should I ask you for those letters? You are the letter. This letter is written in your inner self, yet all can read and understand it. Yes, who could deny that you are Christ's letter written by us - a letter written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, carved not in slabs of stones, but in hearts of flesh. This is how we are sure of God, through Christ. As for us we would not dare consider that something comes from us: our ability comes from God. He has even enabled us to be ministers of a new covenant no longer depending on a written text but on the Spirit. The written text kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Gospel (Mk 2,18-22)

One day, when the disciples of John the Baptist and the Pharisees were fasting, some people asked Jesus, "Why is it that both the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but yours do not?" Jesus answered, "How can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. But the day will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them and on that day they will fast. No one sews a piece of new cloth on an old coat, because the new patch will shrink and tear away from the old cloth, making a worse tear. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins, for the wine would burst the skins and then both the wine and the skins would be lost. But new wine, new skins!"