

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:6-9. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call him while his is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked his thoughts; let him turn to the Lord for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.



*Anita Ahearn is a wife, mother and grandmother of twelve. Anita is a writer and has published a book entitled **Copper Ridge Chronicles**. She is currently a member of the Resurrection Choir and involved in Knitting Into The Mystery, and the Tuesday Scripture Study.*

I love the poetry of Isaiah. It's so easy to pray with the words of Isaiah because this book is so descriptive. It is a book for all times and seasons and whenever I open it, the words become new to me because I'm coming from a new place in my life.

Isaiah 55 starts with an invitation to grace and beginning of the chapter talks about coming to the water, which always reminds me of that beautiful hymn we sing in church. And I'm so grateful that we sing the psalms, simply reading them seems to lose something for me. Music touches us in ways we can only imagine.

"Seek the Lord while he may be found." I couldn't understand that line at first because God can be found everywhere. I believe that we choose to place ourselves in God's presence. God won't come to us uninvited, so it's my choice to invite God. So, as long as I'm in a state where I choose to walk the way of prayer, I initiate this relationship.

The next line talks about the scoundrel forsaking his ways and the wicked his thoughts. We've all been scoundrels at one time or another and I'm included in that. So, I felt that when I'm being a scoundrel, I'm not thinking about God, I'm thinking about being a scoundrel! What I want is more important than what God wants. I feel so blessed in my life to have been a scoundrel and to know that there is never any time that a relationship with God is impossible. No matter what rotten thing I've done or said, God is waiting. He is there.

I love the last part of the quotation, be God himself is speaking. You have to be patient and wait. Then, God will speak and everything comes around right. That has happened to me so often that I am deeply convinced it's true.

There is a security of knowing that God is always present. All I need to do is turn from my worldly ways and see his face. He's there, waiting. I think of the story of the Prodigal Son. The father is running as fast as he can to the son, so happy to see this sinner coming home. That's how I see God, running down the road to me, so thrilled that I'm putting the world aside for a little while.

Our house faces west and we get to see beautiful sunsets. I look out at the neighborhood and usually there isn't a soul outside. I see the sky with its hues of purple, orange and pink and I think, "This is for me!" I can't get over this immense gift! It's the realization of God's omnipresence.

I'm always seeking ways to feel closer, to learn how to be closer to God. It's easy to be distracted by the world. Nearly anything good can be turned into an obsession. For instance, a person who likes to exercise must take care that it doesn't overtake their life to the exclusion of their responsibilities to their family. Something that is essentially good can be taken too far.

"As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways." I find this so reassuring. Sometimes I feel that the weight of the world is on my shoulders. When I remember this Scripture verse I think, "Yes! Thank God! I don't have to worry anymore." All that weight falls off my shoulders.

Do you knit? Perhaps you would join our parish knitting group "Knitting Into the Mystery." Contact Elaine Ouellette at: eouellette@stjohndavison.org

Tuesday Scripture Study meets every Tuesday at 10:00 in the Family Center.

St. John Parish offers the services of our Resurrection Choir for funeral liturgies. If you would like to be a member of this choir, please contact Julie Richards at 658-1135 or by e-mail: jrichards@stjohndavison.org