

When Pope Francis established the annual ***Sunday of the Word of God***, he did so to help us rediscover the inexhaustible riches found in the ongoing dialogue between the Lord and his people. God is not silent. In fact, self-communication belongs to God's very nature. God is not distant or unknowable, but, through Jesus and by the power of Holy Spirit, constantly reaches out in love, joy and peace, inviting humanity into relationship. God is love, and love always communicates.

Think for a moment about the people you love most in the world. That love exists and deepens because you have committed yourself to them, and have learned how to communicate—to listen, to be present, to make space for the other. The same is true in a life-giving relationship with God. Those who regularly seek to listen to God come, by grace, to experience something of God's self-communication. As the psalmist says, "Your words are sweeter than honey" and "a lamp for my feet and a light for my path." Jeremiah goes even further: "Your words were found and I ate them, and your word became the joy and delight of my heart."

Over the past week, I've wrestled with what God's Word might be saying to us through the readings this weekend. I was hoping for something crystal clear, but instead I found myself challenged by familiarity of today's Gospel—known as 'the Beatitudes.' This Gospel may be heard for the first time by some, but for most, they are among Jesus' most well-known teachings. And yet they remain enigmatic and perhaps even unsettling.

***What does it really mean to be "happy" if, for example, we are poor in spirit, or being persecuted, or are mourning?*** Sitting with that question, I was struck by the repeated emphasis on ***humility*** in

our first reading: *“the humble of the earth obey his commands; seek humility, a humble and lowly people will seek refuge in the name of the Lord.”* In my prayer, I was pointed back to the Gospel in which the Beatitudes are not abstract ideals, but describe people who know their need for God. They describe hearts that are open and receptive and in them, Jesus seems to be saying: *“I reveal myself to those who know they need my love and who take time to listen. Happy are those who make space for God’s voice, for they will be filled.”*

This is where the Word of God moves from something we hear at Mass to something that shapes the way we live – if we let it. In parish life, people who have encountered God’s Word and its transformative power are sometimes called into leadership. Today, following this homily, I’ll be commissioning \_\_\_\_\_, together with her leadership team, as the Pastoral Leader of the \_\_\_\_\_ faith community.

In the Church, leadership is a gift entrusted for service. It flows from prayer, attentiveness, and love for God’s people. I’ve prayerfully discerned that \_\_\_\_\_ has the capacity and humility to lead this community—not because she has all the answers, but because she knows how to listen. She has allowed God’s Word to shape her life, and that attentiveness is already bearing fruit among us.

The Beatitudes remind us that the Church is built on hearts that remain open to God’s voice. If we want to be a community alive with joy, mission, and hope, then we must be a community that listens—daily, patiently, and expectantly. So, on this **Sunday of the Word of God**, let’s ask for the grace to become poor in spirit again. To fall in love with Scripture. To make space for silence. To trust

that when we listen, God speaks—because when God speaks, lives are transformed. May God’s Word be for us sweeter than honey, a light for our path, and the joy and delight of our hearts. Amen