

**COMMENTATOR Text**  
**Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>)**

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Good morning (good evening).....

The prophet Ezekiel, Saint Paul, and the Lord Jesus share something in common in today's scripture readings. They all experience obstacles to their ministry. Ezekiel is summoned to prophesy to the Israelites, who are "[h]ard of face and obstinate of heart" (Ezekiel 2:4). Saint Paul recounts how he has been given a "thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7). The Lord Jesus is unable to perform many signs in his native place. The Gospel tells us that "[he] was amazed at their lack of faith" (Mark 6:6). We, too, sometimes encounter obstacles as we travel along the journey of faith. So often we experience weakness on this journey. Let the words of the Lord to Saint Paul encourage us today: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

**[Pause]**

Please stand, and preparing to receive our Lord in Word and Sacrament, we pause to reflect in silence on the gift of our faith, and the command to love....

**[Pause twice as long....]** then move to place *Parish Petition Book* underneath the ambo, and the cantor/music ministers assume responsibility for beginning the "gathering song."

General Intercessions  
**Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

Presider: Mindful that God often speaks to us in ways we do not understand or appreciated, may we hear and respond to God's Holy Word...

- ✠ **May the leaders of the Church prophesy and speak the Word of God with courage and persistence, as we all live it with conviction ... <pause> .... We pray to the Lord.**
- ✠ **For all world leaders, may they receive the grace to listen to the prophets of the Lord and follow God's plan for us all ... <pause> .... We pray to the Lord.**
- ✠ **Let us look with gratitude to Almighty God for the blessings bestowed upon our country, and give thanks and remembrance who make our freedom possible ... especially our deployed men and women... <pause> .... We pray to the Lord.**
- ✠ **May all of us have the courage and humility to listen to God through the people closest to us, especially those we find most difficult to get along with... <pause> .... We pray to the Lord.**
- ✠ **For all those sick or who find life difficult, especially those in our spiritual community ... and whose names grace our parish petition book.... <pause> .... We pray to the Lord.**
- ✠ **Let us remember all those who have died this week, <pause>... and for our Mass intentions for this weekend... and our brothers and sisters included in our parish petition book.... may they all know the fulfillment of their hopes and faith, life eternal... <pause> We pray to the Lord.**

Presider: Almighty Father, help us in everything we undertake this week. May the words we speak, and the work of our hands, be a source of inspiration for all who we meet. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.