



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 5, 2026

Zechariah 9:9-10 Romans 8:9, 11-13 Matthew 11:25-30

Sometimes to help us understand a gospel, you must go into the life experience of Jesus. Remember he is human, like us. My guess is Joseph and Mary probably told him the struggles they experienced with his birth traveling to Bethlehem and the escape to Egypt so he would not be killed by King Herod.

As a carpenter with Joseph, do you think Jesus witnessed the difficulties in family life; their own and of their neighbors? He knew what it was to be burdened.

Then he starts his ministry at age 30 or so, so he has lots of miles of life behind him.

This weekend we celebrate the 250th year anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. We have lots of miles behind us as a nation as well.

The gospel reminds us how we are to go forward, individually and as a country.

Jesus tells us, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves."

The Lord invites us to live our lives together; with each other and with the Lord.

Our country was built on that cooperation. Thirteen colonies agreed to make a Declaration of Independence. We celebrate that courage that took place 250 years ago. The Revolutionary War would not have happened if Virginia and Massachusetts said, "We are not interested." All thirteen colonies needed to be all in.

Our country needed mutual cooperation then, and our country still needs mutual cooperation now. All 50 states need to be all in. It is not about Independents, Republicans or the Democrats. It is about the United States. The yoke of democracy takes all of us to keep this gift going.

No different in our lives. We need each other. We break bread at this altar, not to live separately, but with a common gospel of love to guide us as a family.

“Come to me, all who labor and are burdened.” That would be all of us, now or later. It is part of the human journey.

The Lord reminds us to unite our lives with Him and each other.

Prayer: Bringing Home the Word