

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

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### **Galatians 6:14-17**

14-16 For my part, I am going to boast about nothing but the Cross of our Master, Jesus Christ. Because of that Cross, I have been crucified in relation to the world, set free from the stifling atmosphere of pleasing others and fitting into the little patterns that they dictate. Can't you see the central issue in all this? It is not what you and I do—submit to circumcision, reject circumcision. It is what God is doing, and he is creating something totally new, a free life! All who walk by this standard are the true Israel of God—his chosen people. Peace and mercy on them!

17 Quite frankly, I don't want to be bothered anymore by these disputes. I have far more important things to do—the serious living of this faith. I bear in my body the brand marks of Jesus.

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These are the three passages that Francis spontaneously opened to, that formed his vision. (We have chosen a contemporary interpretation from Eugene Peterson's translation, *The Message*.) Following each reading we will respond as Francis did:

**“This is what I want, this is what I am looking for, this is what I long to do with all my inmost heart!”**

### **Matthew 19:20-21**

20 The young man said, “I've done all that. What's left?”

21 “If you want to give it all you've got,” Jesus replied, “go sell your possessions; give everything to the poor. All your wealth will then be in heaven. Then come follow me.”

### **Mark 6:7-13**

7-8 Jesus called the Twelve to him, and sent them out in pairs. He gave them authority and power to deal with the evil opposition. He sent them off with these instructions: