The reading of Holy Scripture together as a community has been a central part of Christian worship throughout the Church’s long history, and it has deep roots within the practices of God’s people, Israel.

We read Scripture together not simply to learn new information about God’s dealings with humanity in the past, but to listen in faith to what the Living God is saying to us His people today. We listen to His Word to draw closer to Him, and to one another.

After every Scripture Reading this morning, we’re all invited to take a few moments in silence to reflect upon the passage, and how God’s Spirit might be addressing us through it, as individuals or as a community.

In those moments, pay attention to any words, ideas, or images that stand out to you. In the silence afterwards, ask God to help you hear His heart for you today.

After the Gospel is read, and we’ve taken a moment to in silence to reflect upon it, I’ll share a few reflection questions that Pastor Rob has prepared to help us dig in a bit deeper.

Reflection Questions

* In our First Reading from Hosea, God calls his prophet to marry a prostitute, Gomer, a symbolic act to represent how God had “married” the people of Israel, who turned out to be repeatedly unfaithful to him. It was a powerful and shocking way to “call out” their infidelity. And yet, the Lord points them ahead to a time when even his unfaithful people will again be known as “Children of God.”
* In our Second Reading from Colossians, St. Paul warns Christians against being led astray, pointing them instead to live our lives rooted in Christ Jesus, in whom the fullness of God dwells, and who shares forgiveness of sins with us through the cross.
* In our Gospel Reading, Jesus teaches His disciples to pray, and to pray expecting God our Good Father to lovingly give us what we need.
* **What role might consistent, faithful prayer play in rooting our daily lives to Jesus, and with helping us stay faithful to our Father in Heaven?**
* **If prayer is one of the ways God draws us closer to Him, are there ways that I can seek to be more faithful in prayer? What steps can I take to do this?**