

Thoughts on the Daily Word:

15th Week of Year. Friday 16th July. Readings: Exodus 11:10-12:14; Psalm: 115; Matthew 12:1-8.

Matthew is stressing the authority of Jesus, and therefore his community, over the Law. Even the sabbath has to give way to the needs of the community of Jesus. The purpose of the Paschal Meal is to celebrate the coming together of what were originally nomadic peoples. It would appear to celebrate the movement of the community or tribe from one area of pasture to another according to the seasons of winter and summer. Community and journeying are therefore powerful images that are taken to strengthen the tribe and its purpose, holding it together. This will become the foundation of the Jewish community and then flowing directly into the Christian tradition through the memory of the Last Supper. The Church calls the Eucharistic celebration the source and summit of the Christian life and journey.