Today's readings are an invitation for all of us to look at the world differently.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says:
“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

St. Paul reminds us today that
“God delivered all to disobedience, that all might know God's mercy.”

Paul says God's mercy is irrevocable – will not be taken away.
-- a reminder that though we all fail miserably, yet God’s mercy is greater than all our sinning.

Who belongs at the table, who is part of the family, is all a matter of how you look at things.
Today's' readings urge all of us to take another look at ourselves.

The woman in today’s Gospel story challenges Jesus, and really all of us who claim to be part of his body, to see it all from a different point of view.
She is a mother with an ailing daughter.
Yes, it's also true that she's not a Jew, but first she insists that Jesus should see her as a mother crying out for help for her sick daughter.

That is the faith that Jesus says as great – her insistence, her cleverness, her pushiness, her clarity in pointing out first-things-first — mother with ailing daughter, then a non-Jew, what Jews today would call a Goyim, a gentile.

This woman's voice becomes for Jesus the voice of his Father, his Abba.
Yes, God speaks to Jesus through this woman.
God says, open up your eyes . . .
see the faith, see the goodness,
see a real member of the my household, my family standing right in front of you.
Your definition of who is in the house, who is in and who is not is just too small.
So here we are, gathered around God’s table again today. We are older folks and a smattering of younger folks, people with a lot of formal education and other folks with a lot of real-life experience, people from all sorts of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Just look what came out of that meeting between Jesus and the woman he thought was outside the circle of God’s family. James Joyce, the acclaimed Irish writer, says a good definition of the Catholic Church is “Here comes everybody.”

It will take great faith, faith that is pushy and insistent and clever, a faith that just won’t give up, to live up to what we celebrate here today — and work to live into it the rest of the week.

We have to make sure that the lonely, those at life’s margins, the ornery, — yes even those we consider extremists somehow know that they have a place here at God’s table.

Here are a few important statics:
  There is nearly a 70 percent chance that a black man without a high school diploma in this country will end up in prison by his mid 30s.
  Black folks are six times more likely to be stopped by police than white folks.
  Blacks and Hispanics are much more likely to be searched when stopped by police even though the likelihood of finding contraband is higher among whites.

I am honored to work among sisters who are willing to take the kind of stand the IHM leadership team has taken in the light of all that has transpired in the past week in our country and with its current leadership.

Check out their statement on the IHM website.

If we are to be true to the vision of this woman in today’s Gospel a vision which Jesus then makes his own, then we must find new, creative ways to say: "Welcome to the table."