

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Jn 1: 29-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.*

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

15 JANUARY 2023

## LIGHT TO ALL PEOPLES

Like Archimedes, there are times we can call out 'eureka' (I have found!) and know that we have come to a moment of understanding and insight about ourselves. In the first reading, the mysterious servant figure found in the book of Isaiah has arrived at such a moment. They have come to see that their ministry is not only to bring the exiled people of Israel back to their land and to their God but to stand as a light and beacon to the nations.

In a similar fashion, John the Baptist comes to understand himself most truly when he sees Jesus and can proclaim him as the Lamb of God. At that moment, he understands that his ministry's purpose is to prepare the way for Jesus. His baptism of repentance is one that prepares the ground for the baptism of the Spirit which Jesus will give.

During the next seven weeks, the second reading will be taken from Paul's first letter to the community he had founded in Corinth. It was a vibrant and volatile community that was just as varied in status, nationality and wealth as the cosmopolitan city itself. The city was a hive of activity situated where trade routes north-south and east-west intersected. As Paul begins the letter, he is mindful of the international character of the city and of the early Christian movement itself and so it is with this insight that he prays with all those throughout the world who call with faith on the name of Jesus.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Isa 49: 3, 5-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

*I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.*

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 39: 2, 4, 7-10. R. vv. 8, 9

**R.** Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord / and he stooped down to me; / he heard my cry. / He put a new song into my mouth, / praise of our God. **R.**
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, / but an open ear. / You do not ask for holocaust and victim. / Instead, here am I. **R.**
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written / that I should do your will. / My God, I delight in your law / in the depth of my heart. **R.**
4. Your justice I have proclaimed / in the great assembly. / My lips I have not sealed; / you know it, O Lord. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Cor 1: 1-3

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

*The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

■ The word of the Lord.

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