



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14–20

LECTIONARY 2

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

²He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.

³And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,
and my reward with my God."

⁵And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—

⁶he says,
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

⁷Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,

FIRST READING *Isaiah = eye-ZAY-uh*

The first two lines of the reading set the tone. This announcement by God's servant demands the attention of all people. Make the hearer take notice. Help the people in the pew hear the text as a detailing of the credentials of Jesus of Nazareth. It is an epiphany ("showing forth") reading selected for this day to make it clear that Jesus has been chosen as the one in whom God would be revealed most fully to the world. Do not be timid in your reading!

the slave of rulers,
“Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

The word of the Lord. *or* Word of God, word of life.

PSALMODY: Psalm 40:1-11

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

A reading from First Corinthians.

¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in Corinth,
to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus,
called to be saints,

together with all those who in every place
call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you
because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,

⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him,
in speech and knowledge of every kind—

⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—

⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift
as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁸He will also strengthen you to the end,
so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹God is faithful;
by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord. *or* Word of God, word of life.

SECOND READING *Sosthenes = SOS-then-eez*

These are the warm, loving, introductory words of Paul and Sosthenes to the congregation at Corinth. Be encouraging in your reading. Help us hear the love!

GOSPEL: John 1:29-42

The holy gospel according to John.

²⁹John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared,
“Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

³⁰This is he of whom I said,
‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me
because he was before me.’

³¹I myself did not know him;
but I came baptizing with water for this reason,
that he might be revealed to Israel.”

³²And John testified,
“I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove,
and it remained on him.

³³I myself did not know him,
but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me,
‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain
is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’

³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified
that this is the Son of God.”

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,

³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed,
“Look, here is the Lamb of God!”

³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them,
“What are you looking for?”

They said to him,
“Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher),
“where are you staying?”

³⁹He said to them,
“Come and see.”

They came and saw where he was staying,
and they remained with him that day.

It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him
was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.

GOSPEL *Cephas = SEE-fus*

There is a simple, cinematic quality to this gospel. Each of its four paragraphs contains an independent scene. There is an enigmatic quality about each, as if there is much more to come. An excellent reading will help the assembly to hear that.

⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him,
“We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).
⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said,
“You are Simon son of John.
You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

The gospel of the Lord.