

FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD January 15, 2023

Scripture Texts for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

¹Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. 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 right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God." ⁵And now the LORD says, he who formed me from 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 eyes 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 bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for 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 nation, the servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

1. The writings of Isaiah are called the "Servant Song". There is a similarity to the prophet Isaiah himself and the "Servant of Israel". Isaiah portrays the Messiah as a servant. How do verses 1-2 parallel or describe Jesus' early life?
2. How do the words of verse four maybe express Isaiah's experience and also the experience of Jesus in His ministry?
3. How are both Isaiah and "Christ a light to the nations"?

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

¹Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon 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 was

given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1. "Both their Lord and ours" - Paul reminds of the unity we have in Christ that overcomes the emphasis on focusing on ourselves. We often focus on "we" and "they". How does Paul in the introduction to his letter try to create a spirit of oneness in the body of Christ?
2. Paul sights that the full preaching and knowledge of the gospel was shared among them. What is the full knowledge of the gospel? What is a partial knowledge of the gospel?
3. What does Paul mean, they "are not lacking in any gift"?

Gospel: John 1:29-42a

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, 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 before me, because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him." ³³I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." ³⁵The next day again John was standing with two of his

disciples, ³⁶and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). ^{42a}He brought him to Jesus.

1. In John 1:19-28, everyone is asking who John is and why he is baptizing. Is he Elijah, the Christ, or some great prophet??? What is the apostle John trying to share with us that John the Baptist did not "know" him? What has the Holy Spirit done to John the Baptist?
2. What has John the Baptist said about the difference between himself and the Christ?
3. In John 1:29, John says "behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world". What does this say about the focus and pointed language of John?
4. How does Andrew come to the knowledge of knowing who Jesus is? What level of confidence did he have to go tell his brother Simon Peter?
5. What did Andrew do? Who took it from there? John 1:42b

