

ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH
THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD
READINGS FOR JANUARY 22, 2023
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

THE COLLECT:

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING - ISAIAH 9:1-4

Isaiah tells of a future time when those in the northern regions of Israel, whom God subjugated to Assyrian rule, will not only be free but will also reflect God's power. Those so honoured will include people of many nations.

A Reading from the Word of God, written in the Book of Isaiah, Chapter 9, beginning at the first verse.

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The Word of the Lord
The people: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 27:1, 5-13

The psalmist expresses great trust and confidence in the Lord and asks always to be in God's presence.

- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *
the LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 5 One thing have I asked of the LORD;
one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the
days of my life;
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *
and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in
his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the LORD.
- 10 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, LORD, will I seek.

12 Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

13 You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son: *
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now: *
and shall be forever. **Amen.**

THE SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-18

Paul tackles the problem of divisions in the Corinth Community and points out that their (our) loyalty should be to Christ and not to particular leaders.

A Reading from the Word of God, written in the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 1 beginning at the tenth verse.

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels

among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Word of the Lord

The people: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL - MATTHEW 4:12-23

Jesus has been tempted by the devil in the wilderness. His responses show his complete dedication to the will and purpose of God. He has refused to use his divine

power to his own human ends. Now he moves to Capernaum to launch his public ministry.

Gospeler: *The Lord be with you*

All: *And also with you*

Gospeler: *A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

All: *Glory to Christ Our Saviour.*

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee
of the Gentiles—

the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,

and for those who sat in the region and shadow of
death
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of

Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

This is the Gospel of Christ

The people: Praise to Christ our Lord.

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