

Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — January 26, 2020

First Reading — Isaiah 9:1-4 (8:23-9:3 NAB)

¹But there will be no gloom for her that was 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. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Midian.

Responsorial Psalm PS 27:1, 4, 13-14

R. (1a) **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?

The LORD is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?

R. **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

One thing I ask of the LORD;
this I seek:

To dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,

That I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD
and contemplate his temple.

R. **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD with courage;

be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD.

R. **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

¹⁰I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ...

¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Gospel Reading — Matthew 4:12-23

¹²Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; ¹³and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶the 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." ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

¹⁸As 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. ¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and

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he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

23 And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

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INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

INVITATION TO REFLECT

INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

First Reading — Isaiah 9:1-4 (8:23-9:3 NAB)

1. In what ways do you see gloom, anguish, and darkness in our culture?
2. Please share an example where darkness and oppression were shattered by light, and resulted in joy.

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

3. In this passage how would you describe the “cause” of disunity, and what is the “effect”?

Gospel Reading — Matthew 4:12-23

4. How do you feel when you see how the disciples responded to Jesus’ call to “follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”?
5. Compare and contrast the two messages; “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” and “follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”
6. What would it take to have you drop all and follow Christ? What would that mean for you?

INVITATION TO ACT

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another’s openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.