

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Loving God,
you told the world
about the coming of your Son,
Jesus, not through thunder,
lightning, or earthquake,
but through people
such as John the Baptist.
Now it is our turn
to pass on the Good News.
May we forgive those
who hurt us
just as Jesus forgives them
and now lives with you,
forever and ever.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Our readings continue the theme of last week, the baptism of the Lord, focusing on the call of God and, specifically, on the call to mission. The first reading is again the call of the servant of God to bring back the lost and to seek out the stranger (light to the nations). This servant is empowered for this mission by the honor and strength which God gives.

Jesus, too, was called and anointed to be the Lamb who will take away the sin of the world. He, too, is empowered for his mission by the strength of God, given to Jesus in his baptism when the Spirit came to rest on him.

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 49:3, 5-6*

This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah.

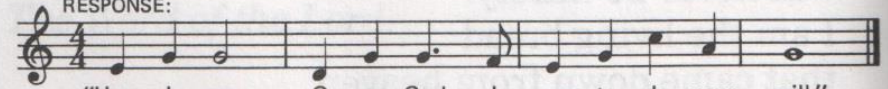
God created me in my mother's body
and called me to be a special servant.
I have been honored, and now,
God is my strength.
For God said to me,

“You are my servant, Israel,
and I will show my glory
to the people through you.
You will bring my people back to me.
But more than that, I want you
to be a light to all the nations
so that everyone will be saved.”

The Word of the Lord.


RESPONSE: *Psalm 40*

RESPONSE:



“Here I am, O my God, I come to do your will.”

VERSES:



1. I pro-claim sal - va - tion. I will say to all, “The Lord is great.”
2. All will see your kind-ness. They will trust in you and want to say:

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

"There is the Lamb of God, who takes a - way the
sins of the world." " Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL: *John 1:29-34*

This is a reading from the Gospel of John.

When John the Baptist
saw Jesus walking toward him,
he said to those who were with him,

"Look, there is the Lamb of God!
He is the one who takes away
the sin of the world.

I told you
that someone was coming after me
who is greater than I am.
He was living before I was born.

I did not know who he was,
even though God sent me
to tell everyone about him
and to baptize in water.

God said to me,

'When you see the Spirit
coming from heaven like a dove
and staying with him,
you will know that he is the one
who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'

Then John said,

"Now I have seen all of this happen,
and I tell you that he is the Son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

Ask the children if they recall last week's readings. Perhaps some will recall the discussion on baptism. Review with them the main points.

This week it may be helpful to reflect on the images used in the readings.

Discuss with the children their understanding of the word "servant." Our acceptance of the *role* of servant is dependent on our notion of its meaning.

What does a servant do? What does it mean to be a "servant" of God? How can we serve God? The children should realize that we serve God by serving God's people.

John called Jesus the "Lamb of God." Again, the power of this image rests on an understanding of the word. Explain to them the gentleness and innocence of a lamb. In the Old Testament, the people often sacrificed a lamb to show their sorrow for sin and their love for God.

Why is Jesus called the Lamb of God? How can we give ourselves lovingly for others?

If time permits, you may wish to explain to the children that a dove is a symbol of peace. This image is used at Jesus' baptism because he came to bring peace.

