

**THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

YEAR B

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God,
you are ready to forgive us
whenever we do wrong.
Give us the courage
to be sorry for our faults
and so open up our hearts
to your love.
We ask you this
through Jesus, the Lord.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The focus of our readings is twofold: the call of the prophet/disciple and the message to be proclaimed—repent and believe.

Jonah is called and sent. Our passage for today picks up the story after the call and tells us that Jonah was sent to preach repentance to the people of Ninevah. The heart of the story is the faith response of the people of Ninevah: when they heard God's message they did in fact believe and change their lives.

In our passage from Mark, the first disciples are called while at their ordinary work. They change their lives "immediately" and follow Jesus. And as we will hear on a later Sunday, they too are eventually sent out to preach the message Jesus gives in the opening verses of this Gospel, "Change your lives and believe in the Good News."

Those who are called must first repent and believe.

FIRST READING: *Jonah 3:1-5,10*

This is a reading from the book of Jonah.

God spoke to Jonah and said,

"Go to the great city of Ninevah,
and give them my message.
I will tell you what to say to them."

So Jonah went to Ninevah just as God told him. Ninevah was a very big city.

It was so big that it took three whole days to walk from one end of it to the other.

Jonah started walking through the city, telling the people God's message. He said,

"In just forty days from now,
the city of Ninevah will be destroyed."

The very first day that Jonah gave this message, all the people of Ninevah believed God's message and they decided that they would change their evil ways. They showed this by fasting and doing penance.

God saw that they were truly sorry for all the evil they were doing and how they really had changed their lives. And so God did not destroy the city.

This is the Word of God.

RESPONSE: *Psalms 25*

RESPONSE: 1st time: Leader; 2nd time: All

Show me your ways, O Lord. Teach me your paths. paths.

VERSES: All

1. You show me when I have sinned.
2. My Sav ior, I hope in you.
3. O lead me in ways of truth.

to Response

