

November 29, 2020 – First Sunday of Advent

Opening Prayer

Lord, as we journey through this Advent season, please help us to keep you in our focus every day. Help us to prepare a special place in our hearts so we may be ready for the celebration of your birth. *Amen.*

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: “Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection Questions:

1. Why did Jesus tell his disciples, “Be watchful! Be ready!” How can you be watchful and ready for Jesus?
2. What kind of work does Jesus ask you to do for him?
3. How can you better prepare your heart to be a loving place for Jesus during this Advent season?

Petitions

May we always keep the Lord in our sight, even when life is difficult for us; we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer*

May we always strive to live our lives preparing for the Lord’s coming; we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer*

May this Advent season help us to enhance our love for one another; we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer*

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. *Amen*

Closing Prayer

Loving Jesus, You tell us to be ready for you when you come again. Please help us always remember to love you above all else, and to love others as ourselves. We ask this in your Holy Name. *Amen.*



December 13, 2020 – Third Sunday of Advent

Opening Prayer

O God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the people to receive the Light of Christ into their lives. Please help us to be a testament of that Light for all to see! *Amen.*

Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection Questions:

1. How would you explain who Jesus is to someone who doesn't "know" him?
2. Who do you consider a prophet in today's world? Could you be a prophet?
3. How can you be a messenger of God today?

Petitions

May we always see your light shining in others; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

Help us to be messengers of your Word of truth and justice; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

Help us to be faithful witnesses of the Word of God; we pray to the Lord

Lord, hear our prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. *Amen*

Closing Prayer

O loving God, John the Baptist was sent to point people towards the path of Jesus. Help us to be a beacon to others, so they may see the Light of Christ in themselves and in others. We ask this in your Holy Name. *Amen.*



December 20, 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Opening Prayer

Loving Father, you sent your angel Gabriel to announce the coming of your Son, Jesus, to us. Be with us as we prepare a loving place in our hearts to

remember His coming long ago and to celebrate His birth. *Amen.*



Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection Questions:

1. When Gabriel appeared to Mary, she had a choice to make. Have you ever heard God speaking to you, maybe in your heart or maybe through another person when you had a difficult choice to make?
2. Do you think it was a hard choice for Mary to make? Or, do you think it was an easy choice for her because of her faith? Why?
3. What is your answer to God when you hear God asking you to help someone?

Petitions

May we always listen to God's voice; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

May we always be faithful servants to God; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

Bless us with the knowledge to see you in all others; we pray to the Lord.

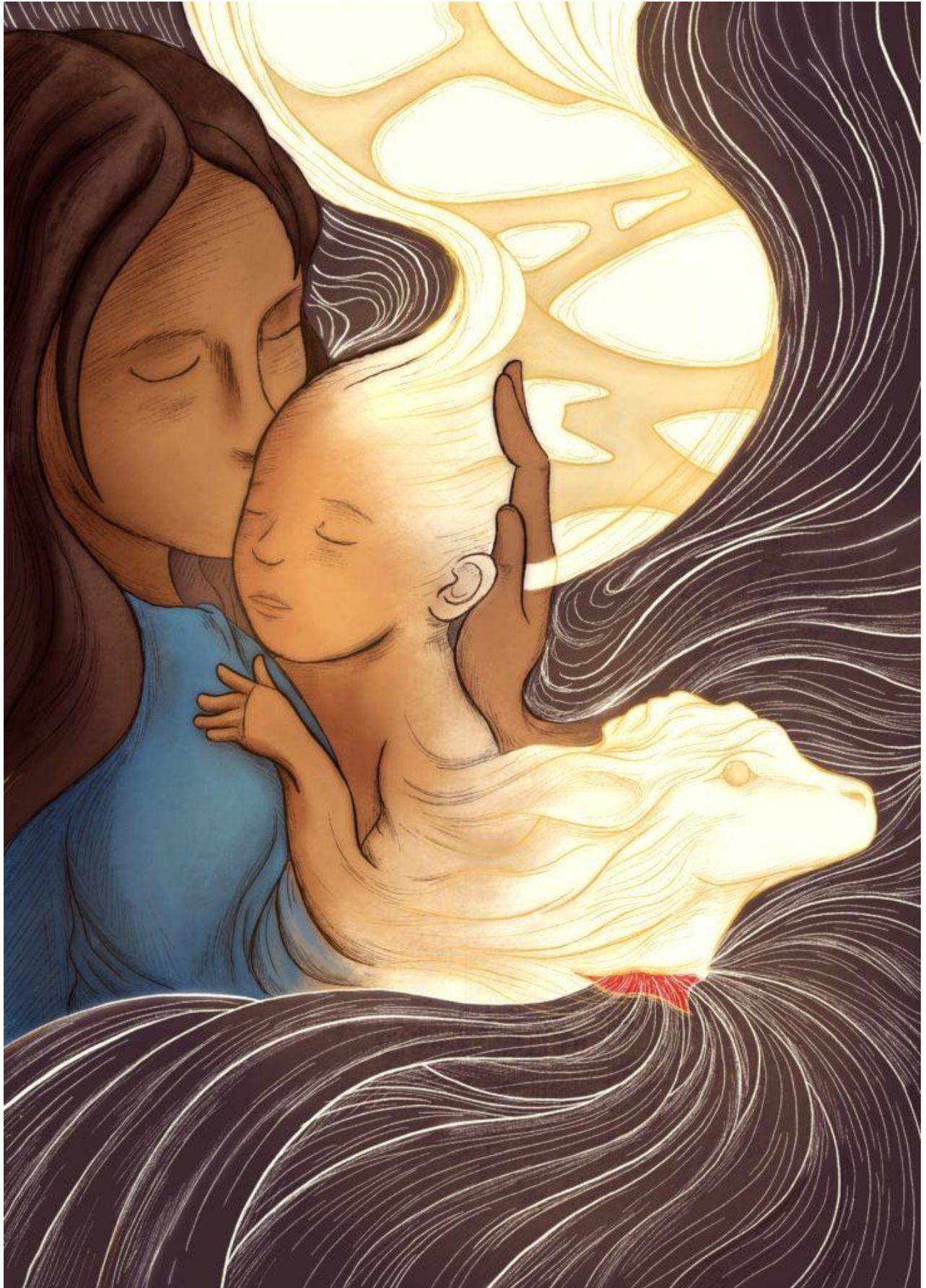
Lord, hear our prayer

Lord's Prayer

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Give us this day our daily bread;
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as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. *Amen*

Closing Prayer

Most loving Father, we yearn to be pleasing to you because we love you above all else. Help us to do your work, as we are your hands. We joyfully await the celebration of your birth during this Advent season. *Amen*



December 25, 2020 – Nativity of the Lord

Opening Prayer

Most heavenly Father, many years ago, you sent your Light to us. Help us always to know that your Light shines in us even when we feel darkness. Help us to see your Light shining in others. You are the Word, the Light, the Truth and the Way in our lives. Thank you for sending us your Son, whose grace still shines on us today! In your name we pray. *Amen*

Gospel: John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection Questions:

1. What did you discover while reading this passage?
2. When was the last time you felt in darkness? Did you ask the Lord to help you find his Light again?
3. In what ways have you seen the Lord's Light shining in others? How did it affect you?

Petitions

We hope that others will always see your Light shining in us; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

We hope that we will always see your Light shining in others; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

Even though we cannot physically see you, may we always hear your voice in our hearts; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. *Amen*

Closing Prayer

Loving God, thank you for sending us the Gift of your Son, Jesus. Because of what Jesus taught us while he walked on this earth, we have learned to believe in you, found strength in our faith and learned to love one another. Please help us strive to always be pleasing in your eyes. We ask this in your name. *Amen*

December 27, 2020 – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Opening Prayer

Most loving God, what a beautiful family you chose to nurture your Son, Jesus, in this world! How amazed Mary and Joseph must have been watching him grow into the Sacred Man who would become our Savior! We thank you for your gift of Jesus! *Amen*

Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce— so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and

became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection Questions:

1. Have you ever witnessed the Holy Spirit guiding you towards a righteous path when you were uncertain about what "route" to take? What was the outcome?
2. Simeon prayed almost his entire life about wanting to meet Jesus. Have you ever prayed about something for a very long time? What was the outcome? How did you react?
3. What things can you improve on in your family's life so that you may be more like the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph?

Petitions

Help our families strive to be more like the Holy Family, full of unconditional love and faithfulness; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

Let us be witnesses to your truth and goodness in this world; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

Let us always feel your presence and goodness through the Holy Spirit; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. *Amen*

Closing Prayer

Merciful Father, help us all to treat others as our family, with love and respect. Help show us ways to spread your goodness, truth and justice in this world. We ask this in your name, for you live and reign forever. *Amen*

January 3, 2021 – Epiphany of the Lord

Opening Prayer

Lord, You directed the Wise men to infant Jesus, through the star that accompanied them, open our mind to the intelligence of the Scriptures. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen*

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.’*” Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star’s appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage.” After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection Questions

1. How has an encounter with Jesus provoked a change in your path?
2. In your opinion, what did the three Wise Men’s gifts represent?
3. How did the Wise men coming from far away get to the proximity of God?

Petitions

Lord Jesus, by your incarnation You came to meet us. Help us, like the Wise Men, to walk with our eyes fixed on You as we journey to Your house; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, the Wise Men returned home by another way, give us the grace of a good conversion; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, Herod and the whole Jerusalem were shaken, help us find our rest only in You; we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer*

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, Star from above who comes to visit us, awaken our sleeping souls to start walking towards

your
House. To
you, who
lives and
reigns
forever
and ever.
Amen.



January 10, 2021 – Baptism of the Lord

Opening Prayer

Lord, humbly your son received baptism from John the Baptist in the waters of the Jordan. Come revive in us the waters of our baptism. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen*

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

And this is what John proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit.” It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Reflection Questions

1. How does the Lord's baptism represent a luminous mystery for you?
2. How does John the Baptist's austerity incite penance and conversion?
3. Are you ready, like John the Baptist, to burn and shine as a witness?

Petitions

Lord, John the Baptist was a witness of light, allow us to be witnesses of what we have seen and heard of you; we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer*

Lord, John the Baptist announced the baptism in the Holy Spirit, open our hearts to his testimony so that your spirit may come to us; we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer*

Lord, John the Baptist paved the way for your mission. Lead my heart on the path of conversion; we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer*

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. *Amen*

Closing Prayer:

Lord, by the baptism of your Son in the waters of the Jordan, you enlightened our hearts. Enkindle in us the fire of your Spirit by the baptism that we received. *Amen*

January 17, 2021 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Opening Prayer

Lord, your disciples, listening to John the Baptist, followed Jesus. Give us a heart that listens to become true disciples. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen*

Gospel: John 1: 35-42

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God.” The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Christ). Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection questions:

1. In your opinion, what are the different ways of God’s call?
2. What does “Jesus, Lamb of God”, mean to you?
3. Why does Jesus make this invitation to stay with Him?

Petitions

Lord, help us improve our capacity of listening so that we follow you to the end; we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer*

Lord, help us keep our eyes constantly on you as you fixed yours on Simon; we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer*

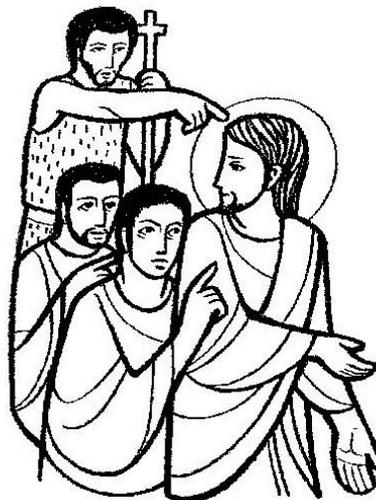
Lord, you who come and dwell among us, give us the desire to stay with you; we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer*

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. *Amen*

Closing Prayer

Lord, You went through human mediation to make Yourself be known by the world, enable us to welcome You by being witnesses of Your love. *Amen*



January 24, 2021 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Opening Prayer

Lord, your word invites us to conversion and to faith. Help us turn our eyes towards you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen*

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Reflection questions

1. What does the “time of fulfillment” mean to you?
2. In your opinion, what is the basic attitude of anyone called by Jesus?
3. How do you answer the Master’s call when called to discipleship?

Petitions

Lord, you have announced the “time of fulfillment”, help us accept the opportunity of your grace in our daily life; we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer*

Lord, there are no laws or prerequisites in the communication of your grace, help us to open ourselves to the generosity of your gifts; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

Lord, the first to be called left everything to follow you immediately. Help us to make our desire for your kingdom a priority in our lives; we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer*

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. *Amen*

Closing Prayer

Lord, you have chosen fishermen among your first disciples. Allow that by their preaching, we may be caught in your fishing nets. *Amen*

January 31, 2021 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Opening Prayer

Lord God, you have created the universe from nothing, and by this very same power you maintain your creation. Express to us the word that creates and liberates. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.
Amen

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Then they came to Capernaum, and on the sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” Jesus rebuked him and said, “Quiet! Come out of him!” The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, “What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.” His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection Questions

1. Can anyone understand the identity of Jesus?
2. How easy is it to distinguish the authority of God through that of the Church?
3. Was Jesus aware of His identity?

Petitions

Lord, no one escapes your authority, exercise it over my soul that it may serve you; we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer*

Lord, you intervene to silence the impure spirit, come into my life and calm all turmoil; we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer*

Lord, by Your presence, you have manifested Your power over the unclean spirits, come and free me from all bondage; we pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
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Give us this day our daily bread;
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as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. *Amen*

Closing Prayer

Lord, you reassure mankind in the midst of its worries. Grant us today the profound peace that we desire. *Amen*

