

# Sunday Message

24 JANUARY 2021

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year B • Psalter Week 3

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

O sing a new song to the Lord;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
In his presence are majesty and splendour,  
strength and honour in his holy place.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

Almighty ever-living God,  
direct our actions according to your good  
pleasure,  
that in the name of your beloved Son  
we may abound in good works.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

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

A reading from the prophet Jonah.  
The word of the Lord was addressed to  
Jonah: "Up!" he said "Go to Nineveh, the  
great city, and preach to them as I told you  
to." Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in  
obedience to the word of the Lord. Now  
Nineveh was a city great beyond compare:  
it took three days to cross it. Jonah went  
on into the city, making a day's journey. He  
preached in these words, "Only forty days  
more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed."  
And the people of Nineveh believed in God;  
they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth,  
from the greatest to the least.  
God saw their efforts to renounce their  
evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not  
inflict on them the disaster which he had  
threatened.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM** *Psalms 24*

Response:  
Lord, make me know your ways.

- Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. (R.)

- Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)
- The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray.  
He guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

**SECOND READING** *1 Corinthians 7:29-31*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians.

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those  
who have wives should live as though they  
had none, and those who mourn should live  
as though they had nothing to mourn for;  
those who are enjoying life should live as  
though there were nothing to laugh about;  
those whose life is buying things should live  
as though they had nothing of their own;  
and those who have to deal with the world  
should not become engrossed in it. I say this  
because the world as we know it is passing  
away.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The kingdom of God is close at hand;  
repent, and believe the Good News.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** *Mark 1:14-20*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Mark.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went  
into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good  
News from God. "The time has come" he  
said "and the kingdom of God is close at  
hand. Repent, and believe the Good News."  
As he was walking along by the Sea  
of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother  
Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they  
were fishermen. And Jesus said to them,  
"Follow me and I will make you into fishers  
of men." And at once they left their nets and  
followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James  
son of Zebedee and his brother John; they  
too were in their boat, mending their nets.  
He called them at once and, leaving their  
father Zebedee in the boat with the men he  
employed, they went after him.

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

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray,  
and in sanctifying them  
grant that they may profit us for salvation.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

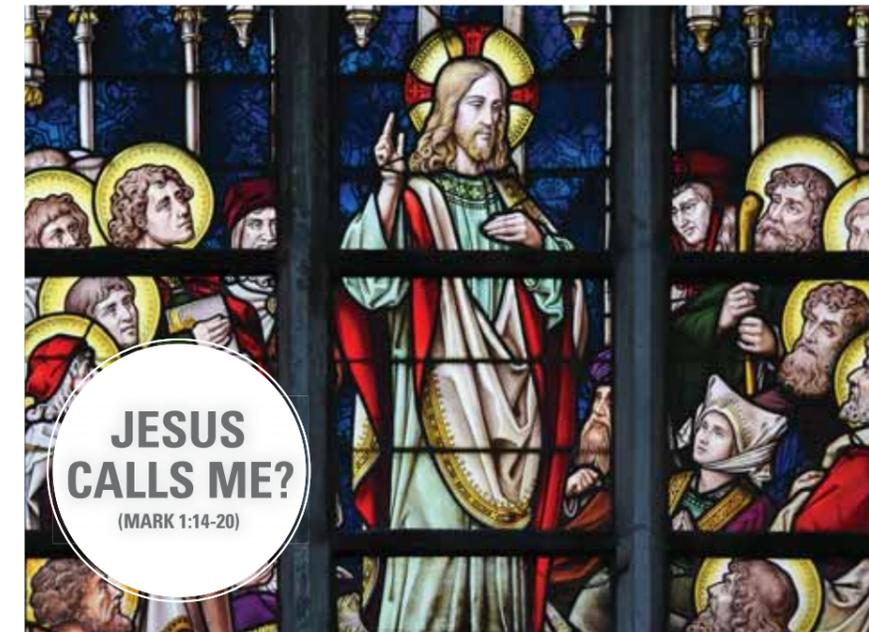
Look toward the Lord and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that, receiving the grace  
by which you bring us to new life,  
we may always glory in your gift.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Truly a faithful friend is the medicine of life.  
Truly a faithful friend is a strong defence.  
For what will not a genuine friend perform?  
What pleasure will he not afford? What  
benefit? What security? Though you should  
name infinite treasures, none of them is  
comparable to a genuine friend.

*St John Chrysostom*

**THE WORD**

*Stained glass window in St Gummarus Church in Lier, Belgium*

Our Gospel extract today falls into two sections. After the notice about the arrest and imprisonment of John the Baptist, we have an example of a characteristic feature of Mark's account, that of the summary statement.

Here the evangelist records that Jesus preached in Galilee and gives the main underlying theme of the content, namely, the approach of God's kingdom and the need to repent and accept the Good News. Apart from that, we are given no details about how Jesus presented his message.

In the second part, we hear about the call of the first disciples. Jesus is unusual in this, because normally disciples (or students) would, of their own accord, gather round a rabbi so that they could learn from his instruction and way of life. Jesus, on the other hand, takes the initiative and invites people to leave their customary occupations and follow him, both by becoming his disciples and literally going with him, leaving their families and possessions behind. Here, those invited respond immediately to his radical call, just as others will subsequently. ■

**REFLECT**

There is a hymn which reflects on Jesus' calling of his disciples which begins "Follow me, follow me, leave your home and family" and is often sung with great gusto by Sunday congregations. Whether we would be quite so enthusiastic if we thought that the words actually applied to ourselves is perhaps another matter. We might regard the text as a meditation on the call to the religious life, especially to missionary work overseas. But even those who accept such an invitation soon discover that life is not so simple and that daily needs have to be met, no matter how simply they try to live.

There is always a danger that we can think that certain parts of the teachings of Jesus are for a particular group of other people and therefore do not apply to ourselves. When Mark was writing, there was no priesthood that we would recognise today, no religious orders dedicated to the foreign missions: he is addressing his account of Jesus' call to all his readers. It is true that certain people have a profound conversion experience which leads them to a radical break with their past life: some people may decide to join the Church against the wishes of their family or relations. But the vast majority of us have responsibilities

**SAY**

Lord, teach me your ways:  
Lord, show me your paths.  
(Psalm 24:4)

**DO**

Look round your home and/or workplace: tell yourself that this is the place where Jesus is calling you to live as his disciple.

**LEARN**

The Sea of Galilee, also known as the Lake of Gennesareth, is an inland freshwater body of water.

It is approximately thirteen miles long and eight miles wide.

Disciples normally chose to follow the rabbi whose teachings and way of life impressed them: Jesus is unusual in selecting his disciples.



*View of the Sea of Galilee from the shore*

that we cannot just abandon, nor are we being asked to.

But we are all disciples of Jesus. "Repent and believe the Good News" is addressed to us today. This, for most of us, is not something that we do once and for all: it has to be a regular part of our Christian life. The fundamental vocation which we all share is to be a disciple of Jesus and to live as such in whatever way of life we find ourselves. Perhaps "repent" could mean examining ourselves to see if anything is coming between ourselves and Jesus and, if so, doing something about it. ■