

The Second Sunday after The Epiphany - January 16th, 2011

READINGS & PSALM

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

INTRODUCTIONS

These may be included in the Parish Magazine, in the weekly service sheet, or by the lector as an introduction to the readings.

Isaiah 49 : 1 - 7

Epiphany means manifestation. In this Epiphany season, our readings are showing the ways God has revealed himself. For us, Isaiah's poem has come true in a way he could scarcely have imagined, as he anticipates the appearance of God within one who is destined even before his birth to be the bearer of salvation into all the world.

1 Corinthians 1 : 1 - 9

Isaiah's vision of the Lord revealing himself is echoed in this opening greeting from Paul's letter to Corinth. He gives thanks for the spiritual gifts they have received, and shows himself confident that God will strengthen them for the new day of the Lord's appearing.

John 1 : 29 - 42

John the Baptist is given an Epiphany of who Jesus really is, and declares his own task to be revealing Jesus. So he directs others to follow Jesus, and some men begin to recognise the Messiah.

PRAYERS

Almighty and everlasting God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and grant us your peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *BCP*.

Let us pray [for the gift of God's peace.]

Father of heaven and earth, hear our prayers, and show us the way to peace in the world. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. *AAPB*

Almighty God, whose Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped and obeyed to the ends of the earth; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *APBA*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SEQUENCE 1

Thematic

Perfect Light of revelation,
as you shone in the life of Jesus,
whose epiphany we celebrate,
so shine in us and through us,
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,

The Second Sunday after The Epiphany - January 16th, 2011

enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy. Amen.

God,
you spoke your word
and revealed your good news in Jesus, the Christ.
Fill all creation with that word again,
so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations
and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples,
we may become one living body,
your incarnate presence on the earth. Amen.

Intercessory

To God who welcomes all in love,
let us pray for the good of the church
and the concerns of those in need.

Prayers of the People, concluding with:

God of every land and nation,
you have created all people
and you dwell among us in Jesus Christ.
Listen to the cries of those who pray to you,
and grant that, as we proclaim the greatness of your name,
all people will know the power of love at work in the world.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

R

Sisters and brothers,
let us lift our hearts in faith
to the one who hears all prayers
and holds close all those in need.

Prayers of the People, concluding with:

Holy God, you gather the whole universe
into your radiant presence
and continually reveal your Son as our Savior.
Bring healing to all wounds,
make whole all that is broken,
speak truth to all illusion,
and shed light in every darkness,
that all creation will see your glory and know your Christ. Amen.

Scripture

Steadfast God,
you have enriched and enlightened us
by the revelation of your eternal Christ.
comfort us in our mortality
and strengthen us
to walk the path of your desire,
to that by word and deed we may manifest
the gracious news of your faithfulness and love. Amen.

SEQUENCE 2

Presider or deacon

God calls on us to follow Christ. Let us earnestly call on God to hear our prayers for the needs, concerns, and hopes of all peoples.

Deacon or other leader

For the church of Jesus Christ in every place.

Lord, have mercy.

For N our bishop, for presbyters, deacons, and all who minister in Christ.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy gathering and for all who are called to follow Jesus.

Lord, have mercy.

For this country, for all nations and their leaders, and for those in the armed forces who guard the peace.

Lord, have mercy.

For all those in danger and need: the sick and the suffering, prisoners, captives, and their families, the hungry, homeless, and oppressed.

Lord, have mercy.

For the dying.

Lord, have mercy.

For ourselves, our families, and those we love.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord.

Presider

Lover of humankind, giver of every spiritual gift, hear the prayers of your people and give us the will and the courage to serve you throughout the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SEQUENCE 3

With prophetic vision John gave witness to Jesus Christ. That we might welcome God's reign with the same urgency let us pray, "Lord in your mercy," and respond, "Hear our prayer."

For the mission of the church, that we might make disciples as Jesus did: by inviting strangers into community; by learning together the ways of repentance and forgiveness; by walking with one another from death to life through the waters of baptism.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

For truth in our world, that we who are enslaved by false allegiance to wealth, country, family or religion might be set free.

The Second Sunday after The Epiphany - January 16th, 2011

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

For those in poverty, that they might know abundance.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

For the baptized everywhere, that through word and action we might proclaim the one who welcomes the rejected and despised.
Good and faithful God,
Hear our prayer

For politicians, doctors, pastors, lawyers and all who have been entrusted with society's respect, that they might walk humbly before their creator. Good and faithful God,
Hear our prayer

For all in need of forgiveness, that reconciliation might be granted to them. Good and faithful God,
Hear our prayer

For all who have gathered here, that we might together discover the risen Christ, serving each other with joyous hearts.
Good and faithful God,
Hear our prayer

For all who today receive God's grace in baptism, especially_____
Good and faithful God,
Hear our prayer

For ourselves, that we might discern the Holy Spirit in those who are newly baptized and welcome the renewal they offer, so that the church might be torn down where it is in error, and built up where it proclaims good news.
Good and faithful God,
Hear our prayer

God of New Life, in baptism you have claimed us as your own. Fill us now with your Holy Spirit that we might proclaim your steadfast love to the world. Amen.

SERMON STARTERS

John 1: 29-42

Twice in this passage, John refers to Jesus as the Lamb of God. In an allusion to the Jewish sacrifices required by the Law, John connects Jesus to that sacrificial animal which atones for human sins. Yet even many Jewish people had become complacent in their understanding of the ritual. It was only the outward sign that remained. The inner cleansing needed really did not happen. How like our Hebrew faith ancestors we are. Approximately 75% of Americans believe they are concerned about the environment. Yet we continue to drive SUVs, purchase fruit grown and shipped across the globe, and build larger and larger homes requiring more and more resources to furnish and service. Being "green" means more than purchasing a license plate or sending \$10 annually to the Sierra Club.

The Second Sunday after The Epiphany - January 16th, 2011

We must educate ourselves about alternative fuel sources, insist on mass transportation, buy cooperatively and learn from our children about what they learn in school. I recently heard that by 2040 all known sources of fossil fuels in the earth will be depleted. Now is the time to make sacrifices to our God that are substantive, that come from the heart, that will impact the future of all life forms on our earth. Those who are called by God are called to a higher standard.

By Wanda Copeland

The Lamb of God

Events on day 2 of Jesus' ministry - getting the team together....

1. The Look of John:- John the Baptist points Jesus out to his followers - *Look, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world ... I have seen & do testify that this is the Son of God* (1Jn 4.14).

Can we give such testimony to those around us? Do we point others to Jesus? Are we looking to Jesus ourselves - for forgiveness & salvation?

2. The Lamb of God:- connection with Temple Sacrifice...

a) Passover Lamb – the annual Jewish festival celebrating God's wonder in delivering his people from slavery in Egypt – the lamb had to be perfect - without blemish;

b) Evening sacrifice of lambs in the Temple in Jerusalem;

c) The Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53.7:- *like a lamb to the slaughter - the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

cf 1Jn 2.2:- *He is the atoning sacrifice (AV propitiation) for our sins, & not only ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

3. The Love of Christ:- demonstrated in his death on the cross to save the world - fulfilling Jn 3.16... Jesus is *the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world* – daily cleansing..

a) John came to Prepare the Way - for Jesus - v31: *the reason I came baptising with water was that he might be revealed to Israel* - God's people - golden opportunity - too good to miss!

b) Jesus came to Proclaim the Way - to life & salvation.. Jesus is the only way... The Cross is the only sacrifice - *one. complete & all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world* (BCP Eucharistic Prayer)

We trust in Him as **Lord & Saviour** - in confidence the perfect unblemished **Lamb & Sacrifice....**

By Norman Porteus

WEB SOURCES

On Amazing Grace

<http://www.free-sermons.org/sermons/Amazing-Grace-13305>

On John the Baptist's recognition of Jesus as The Lamb of God

http://www.stlukes.net/Recent_Sermons/pdf/year-a/Epiphany_02_A_2008.pdf