

**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,  
God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Is 8:23-9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

In days past the Lord humbled the land of  
Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days  
to come he will confer glory on the Way of  
the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of  
the nations.

The people that walked in darkness  
has seen a great light;  
on those who live in a land of deep shadow  
a light has shone.  
You have made their gladness greater,  
you have made their joy increase;  
they rejoice in your presence  
as men rejoice at harvest time,  
as men are happy when they are dividing the  
spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,  
the bar across his shoulders,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
these you break as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Ps 26

Response:

**The Lord in my light and my help.**

1. The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
before whom shall I shrink? (R.)

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
for this I long,  
to live in the house of the Lord,  
all the days of my life,  
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
to behold his temple. (R.)
3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord! (R.)

**SECOND READING** 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17

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

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our  
Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences  
between you, and instead of disagreeing  
among yourselves, to be united again in your  
belief and practice. From what Chloe's people  
have been telling me, my dear brothers, it  
is clear that there are serious differences  
among you. What I mean are all these  
slogans that you have, like: "I am for Paul," "I  
am for Apollos," "I am for Cephas," "I am for  
Christ." Has Christ been parcelled out? Was  
it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you  
baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but  
to preach the Good News, and not to preach  
that in the terms of philosophy in which the  
crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the  
kingdom,  
and cured all kinds of sickness among the  
people.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mt 4:12-23

(For shorter form, read between > and <)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew.

> Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus  
went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth  
he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside  
town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali.  
In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be  
fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!  
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,  
Galilee of the nations!  
The people that lived in darkness  
has seen a great light;  
on those who dwell in the land and shadow  
of death  
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his  
preaching with the message "Repent, for the  
kingdom of heaven is close at hand." <

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee  
he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called  
Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were  
making a cast in the lake with their net, for  
they were fishermen. And he said to them,  
"Follow me and I will make you fishers of  
men." And they left their nets at once and  
followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair  
of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his  
brother John; they were in their boat with

their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and  
he called them. At once, leaving the boat and  
their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee  
teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming  
the Good News of the kingdom and curing  
all kinds of diseases and sickness among the  
people.

> 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.

# Sunday Message

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 22 January 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3

## CALLED TO FOLLOW

(MT 4:12-23)



The arrest of John signalled Jesus out as a marked man. He left the Jordan valley and returned to his home country of Galilee. But not quite. He didn't go back to home and family in Nazareth, to familiar job and surroundings. He went instead to a town called Capernaum.

Today, Capernaum is a few acres of ruins on the shores of the lake of Galilee, while Nazareth is a bustling town of thousands of inhabitants. In the days of Jesus, it was different. Nazareth was an isolated mountain hamlet, Capernaum a busy port on an international trading route, which Matthew and the prophet Isaiah long before him knew as 'The Way of the Sea'.

The extended Jewish family provided a total care system. It gave a comforting familiarity to life, but there was a price to pay. No doubt there were family pressures on Jesus to be like everyone else – to settle down, build up the family carpentry business, pick a nice local girl and get married. If he conformed, his place in the system was assured.

Jesus, on the other hand, needs to get away. His sense of mission will not allow him to settle down like all the rest. In Capernaum, Jesus sets about forming a new group around himself. There must have been something magnetic about his personality to make people leave what they knew to follow him. Matthew tells us in the last lines of today's Gospel why Jesus needs space and freedom. It is so that the Good News of the Kingdom and its healing can be proclaimed. ■

## REFLECT

**Q**uestion: Who or what do you follow?

Today's Gospel is about following. Jesus calls his first disciples, and they drop everything and follow him. They abandon everything to follow him. They leave behind their families, jobs, and old way of life and follow this charismatic street preacher. It seems like a reckless thing to do. And yet these pairs of brothers do it.

Imagine doing something like that today – giving up all you're familiar with to follow someone? Giving up all you are familiar with to follow Jesus?

But lots of people still do it. Religious vocations may not be as plentiful as in the past, but some young people still choose to dedicate their lives entirely to God, ministering either at home or overseas. They have dropped everything to follow Jesus.

Unlike these 'professional' religious, we don't have to drop everything and follow – but we are called to follow. We all become followers of Jesus through our baptism and are called to follow him faithfully every day. We do that by loving God and each other as best we can; by serving God and each other as best we can. By trying to be good people.

On social media, you can unfollow someone if you like. You can also give up following a particular political party or celebrity, or even a sports team if they disappoint you too much.

But for us Christians, the challenge is never to give up following Jesus. That, even when we stumble and fail, we pick ourselves up and follow him again; that, even when the church lets us down, we don't let its weakness stop us from honouring our baptismal calling. That no matter what trials or setbacks come our way, we never stop following Jesus.

So that question again: Who do you follow? Do you follow Jesus as fervently as your local rugby or football team? Or your favourite soap? How dedicated a Christian are you? ■

## SAY

Lord, thank you for inviting me to follow you. Help me to follow you every day of my life.

## DO

Reflect on what it means to you to be a follower of Jesus. How closely do you follow him? How much would you be prepared to give up to follow him?

## PRAY

Pray for Christians persecuted for their faith.

## LEARN

A disciple is one who follows.

The Christian is called to follow Jesus whatever the cost.

As baptised Christians, each of us is obliged to proclaim the Gospel.