

The Word of God

Second Sunday after the Epiphany



January 18, 2026

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, through your Son, Jesus, many came to faith in you. Bring us to faith by your grace that we may obediently worship and follow you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

¹Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The Lord called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. ²He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." ⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God." ⁵And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him – for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength – ⁶he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." ⁷Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Lessons for Next Week: Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1-9 [10-14];
1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-25

Psalm 40:1-12

¹I waited patiently upon the Lord; he stooped to me and heard my cry.

2He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.

³He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.

4Happy are they who trust in the Lord! They do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.

⁵Great things are they that you have done, O Lord my God! How great your wonders and your plans for us! There is none who can be compared with you.

6Oh, that I could make them known and tell them but they are more than I can count.

⁷In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure; you have given me ears to hear you;

8Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, and so I said, "Behold, I come.

⁹In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: 'I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep in my heart.'

10I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; behold, I did not restrain my lips; and that, O Lord, you know.

¹¹Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.

12You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me; let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

¹Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God

that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel: John 1:29-42a

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.

³³I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

³⁵The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples,

³⁶and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). ^{42a}He brought him to Jesus.