

## **Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, January 15, 2022**

### **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

#### **First Reading — Isaiah 49:3, 5-6**

3And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."... 5And now the LORD says, 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 restore the preserved of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

dove from heaven, 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."

#### **Responsorial Psalm PS 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10**

**R/ (8a and 9a) Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

I have waited, waited for the LORD, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry. And he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God.

**R/ Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

Sacrifice or offering you wished not, but ears open to obedience you gave me. Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not; then said I, "Behold I come."

**R/ Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.**

"In the written scroll it is prescribed for me, to do your will, O my God, is my delight, and your law is within my heart!"

**R/ Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

I announced your justice in the vast assembly; I did not restrain my lips, as you, O LORD, know. **R/**

**Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

#### **Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 1:1-3**

1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, 2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Gospel Reading — John 1:29-34**

29The next day he 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, for he was before me.' 31I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." 32And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a

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#### **INVITATION TO PRAY**

*Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...*

#### **Proclaim the Scriptures out loud**

*As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.*

#### **INVITATION TO REFLECT**

Each year thirty-three or thirty-four weeks are designated as Ordinary Time. This designation is not intended to be ordinary in a less qualitative sense, but simply Sundays wherein a particular mystery of Christ is not designated for celebration. However, for us, each week of Ordinary Time can be extraordinary as we experience and worship the risen Lord. That which makes our life extraordinary is not the rare sudden blaze of glory, but the cumulative affect of living day-in and day-out with Christ, united and nourished by him. It was said of Peter and John that they were “uneducated and ordinary men” whose amazing boldness was attributed to being “companions of Christ.” So, we too, through his indwelling Spirit and through his presence, can dwell with him and see our “ordinary” lives take on extraordinary meaning. One aspect of nourishing ourselves on him is beautifully expressed by Francis De Sales in Introduction to the Devout Life: “People who have been walking about in a beautiful garden do not like to leave without gathering in their hands four or five flowers to smell and keep for the rest of the day. In the same way, when our soul has carefully considered by meditation a certain mystery, we should select one, two, or three points that we liked best and that are most adapted to our improvement, think frequently about them, and smell them spiritually during the rest of the day.” And so, our consciousness of Christ is awakened and maintained. It is this conscious awareness of Christ’s presence that changes the ordinary into the extraordinary. Christ’s abiding presence affects the way we think and act toward others and toward life’s circumstances and events. When that consciousness is not there we respond very selfishly, concerned primarily with what makes our life more enjoyable. When we are conscious of being in Christ’s presence and his presence being in us, our whole perspective changes. We tend to see the ordinary as an opportunity to manifest Christ’s presence and to see ordinary circumstances and difficulties become moments of transformation in which his grace is seen in us, and shines through us, to make the ordinary a divine encounter. Perhaps that should be one of our primary objectives during these times of weekly reflections; to carry away one or two points and to daily savor them during the following week. For instance, in this week’s readings three phrases stand out to me: “my God has become my strength,” “called to be saints together,” and “I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.” What affect would it have on our week if we frequently thought about one of these concepts each day and how it would contribute to our improvement? I believe the passage would come alive for us, and that we would see the Holy Spirit amplify our understanding of the phrase and help us apply it on more than one occasion during the week. Let’s try it, and talk about its affect next week. We hope that as you reflect on these three passages that you will gather a bouquet to enjoy and to transform your week into an extraordinary experience.

#### **INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING**

##### **First Reading —**

1. How do you respond emotionally to being called a servant?
2. What do you understand are the roles and responsibility of being a servant?

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**Second Reading —**

3. With which of the adjectives used to describe people in this passage do you most identify? Why?
4. What does it mean to be an “apostle,” a ‘brother,” “church,” a “saint”?

**Gospel Reading —**

5. What truths about Jesus are revealed in John’s statements?
6. What are the characteristics of a lamb? Why do you think John used this term to identify Jesus?
7. How do you understand the significance of Jesus’ taking away the sins of the “world”?

**INVITATION TO ACT**

*Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.*

**CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY**

*Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another’s openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.*