

Cycle B -- Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jan. 21, 2024

"I will make you fishers of people..."

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan. 18-25

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 25)

Leader: Make me to know your ways,
O Lord; teach me your paths.

**All: Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation.**

Leader: Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore God instructs sinners in the way.

**All: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep God's covenant and decrees.**



SHARING THE WORD

First Reading -- Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Did Jonah flee from God's call because he knows that God is merciful, and is likely to forgive Nineveh and call for their conversion rather than punish and destroy the people? Despite all Jonah's shortcomings and objections, God's word works through him to effect a change in the Ninevites which results, much to Jonah's dismay, in God's relenting.

1. What part of Jonah's story speaks to you?
2. Have you ever felt like Jonah, calling for revenge rather than conversion?
3. Are you ever resentful of a God who keeps giving people second and third and fourth chances?

Second Reading -- 1 Cor. 7:29-31

While fulfilling all of our duties in the world -- marrying, mourning, rejoicing, buying and dealing -- Paul reminds us that an even greater world has been prepared for us in Christ Jesus, a world where none of these things matter anymore. We are called to live in this hope each day.

1. What, in your opinion, is the relationship between the "things of the world" and the heavenly existence won for us by Jesus?
2. Does this mean we can abdicate responsibility? Why or why not?

Gospel -- Mark 1:14-20

The eager and immediate response from Peter, James and John, and Andrew in today's reading draws us into their joy, but tension and confusion are lurking just beneath the surface. While these disciples are the only ones who will be privileged to some of the most complete revelations of Jesus' power and purpose, they are also the ones who will most seriously misunderstand Jesus and will fail him at key moments in Jesus' life.

1. What does this passage tell you about call and response?
2. Recall a time when you shared the enthusiasm of the disciples in this Gospel passage.
3. Has your enthusiasm for Jesus ever been tempered or even absent? Why or why not?

LIVING THE WORD

Which part of God's Word today challenges me/us for this coming week?

PRAYING THE WORD

Intercession: We pray that every family may become more a place of training in charity, personal growth and transmission of the faith...

We pray to the Lord.

Invite other intercessions: For what else should we pray?

End with "Our Father...."

Closing Prayer:

Leader: Lord Jesus,
You call us to come and follow you.

All: We often respond with enthusiasm,
Only to get discouraged through
The demands and crises of daily life.

Leader We praise you, God,
For giving us second and third and fourth chances,
For allowing us to begin again. **Amen.**

Let us offer each other a sign of peace, a peace the world cannot give.