

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

All the earth shall bow down before you,  
O God,  
and shall sing to you,  
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

**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,  
who govern all things,  
both in heaven and on earth,  
mercifully hear the pleading of your people  
and bestow your peace on our times.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Is 49:3, 5-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.  
The Lord said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel,  
in whom I shall be glorified";  
I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord,  
my God was my strength.  
And now the Lord has spoken,  
he who formed me in the womb to be his  
servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
to gather Israel to him:  
"It is not enough for you to be my servant,  
to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring  
back the survivors of Israel;  
I will make you the light of the nations  
so that my salvation may reach to the ends  
of the earth."  
The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Ps 39

Response:  
Here I am, Lord!  
I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord  
and he stooped down to me;  
he heard my cry.  
He put a new song into my mouth,  
praise of our God. (R.)
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,  
but an open ear.  
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.  
Instead, here am I. (R.)
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written  
that I should do your will.  
My God, I delight in your law  
in the depth of my heart. (R.)
4. Your justice I have proclaimed  
in the great assembly.  
My lips I have not sealed;  
you know it, O Lord. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

1 Cor 1:1-3

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

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle,  
together with brother Sosthenes, send  
greetings to the church of God in Corinth,  
to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are  
called to take their place among all the saints  
everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus  
Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours.  
May God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ send you grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessings on the King who comes,  
in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven  
and glory in the highest heavens!  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

John 1:29-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
John.

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John  
said, "Look, there is the lamb of God that  
takes away the sin of the world. This is the  
one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming  
after me who ranks before me because  
he existed before me. I did not know him  
myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel  
that I came baptising with water." John also  
declared, "I saw the Spirit coming down on  
him from heaven like a dove and resting on  
him. I did not know him myself, but he who  
sent me to baptise with water had said to me,  
'The man on whom you see the Spirit come  
down and rest is the one who is going to  
baptise with the Holy Spirit.' Yes, I have seen  
and I am the witness that he is the Chosen  
One of God."

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**

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,  
that we may participate worthily in these  
mysteries,  
for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is  
celebrated  
the work of our redemption is accomplished.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

You have prepared a table before me,  
and how precious is the chalice that  
quenches my thirst.

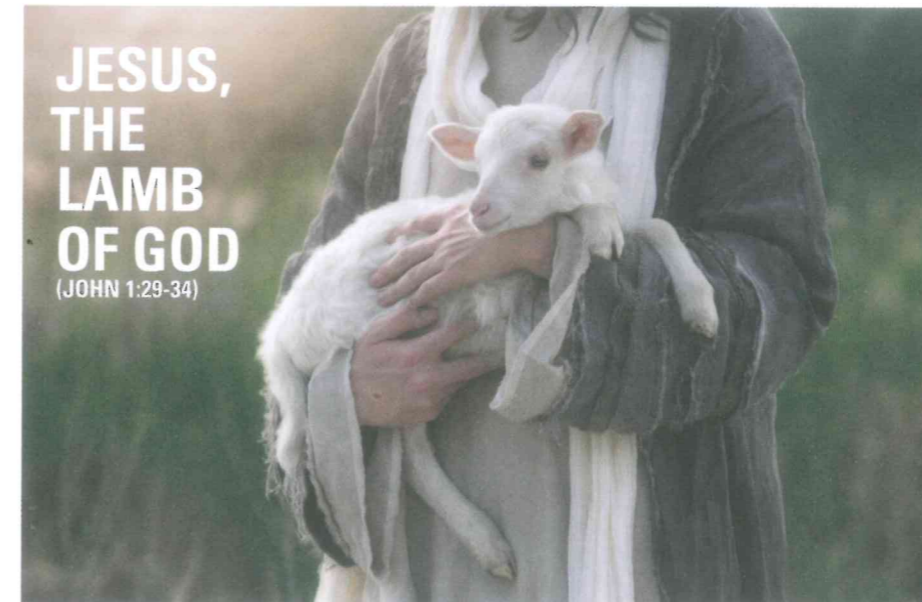
**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love,  
and in your kindness  
make those you have nourished  
by this one heavenly Bread  
one in mind and heart.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

# 19 JANUARY 2020 Sunday Message

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**THE WORD**

Year A • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



Today, we begin our series of Gospel extracts in which we consider, week by week, the ministry and teachings of Jesus. As usual, the first main character we encounter is John the Baptist.

Although the readings throughout the year will be taken from the Gospel according to Matthew, the current episode comes from the Fourth Gospel, that according to John. The baptism of Jesus is not reported or described as in the other three versions, but it seems to be presumed. The Baptist is the inspired witness to Jesus and sets the scene for us to understand better who Jesus is and what his mission entails. John's knowledge of Jesus comes from revelation, from God, and it is John who sees the Spirit in the form of a dove coming down from heaven and resting on Jesus, a detail we find in the other accounts of his baptism.

John tells us that Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world: he brings the Holy Spirit; he is the Chosen One (or the Son) of God. We might note that the Baptist talks about the sin (singular) of the world. He is not thinking of petty transgressions or the laundry-list of penitents in the past: the sin of the world is a much more serious affair, and refers to an underlying sinful condition, which manifests itself in attitudes and actions. Jesus' baptism will be more powerful than that of John, as Jesus will baptise with the Holy Spirit. Thus the scene is set for the rest of our Gospel readings throughout the year. ■

**REFLECT**

One of the themes running through the Fourth Gospel is that of replacement: Jesus replaces in himself the main institutions of Judaism, such as the Temple in Jerusalem, and the feasts such as Passover. Jesus is the Lamb of God, the means by which God enters human history and offers reconciliation with himself.

We might consider today this expression of God. Throughout the Bible, God is the one who takes the initiative in reaching

out to us, human beings. God reveals: God is not discovered. John the Baptist is a messenger, sent by God, as the evangelist tells us. Jesus himself is the Word of God become flesh, God's final and most direct way of communicating with human beings. The bond which God chooses to form with us is not a contract but a covenant of life and love, a relationship so close that it can be used to illustrate and explain the marriage bond.

**SAY**

This is the Lamb of God,  
who takes away  
the sin of the world

(John 1:29)

**LEARN**

The expression 'Lamb of God' can refer to the Passover lamb of the Exodus story.

It can also allude to the Suffering Servant of Isaiah.

The Servant takes the guilt of the sinful people upon himself and suffers on their behalf.

**DO**

Look at the host when the priest lifts it up before Communion: renew your belief that Jesus is present in the consecrated bread and wine.



The Gospel readings are not extracts from a biography of Jesus: they are the living Word of God addressed to us today, inviting us to reflect on our own relationship with God which was expressed and sealed, not by the blood of sacrifice but by the water of baptism. Is this difficult to believe? Is it too good to be true? To be God's servant, perhaps, but God's friend? What do you think? ■

