

Sunday 18 January 2026

second Sunday of Epiphany

First reading

Isaiah 49.1–7

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples
from far away!
The Lord called me before I
was born,
while I was in my mother's
womb he named me.
He 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.
And he said to me, 'You are my
servant,
Israel, in whom I will be
glorified.'
But I said, 'I have laboured in
vain,
I have spent my strength for
nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with
the Lord,
and my reward with my God.'
And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb
to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be
gathered to him,
for I am honoured in the sight of
the Lord,
and my God has become my
strength—
he says,
'It is too light a thing that you
should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob

and to restore the survivors of
Israel;
I will give you as a light to the
nations,
that my salvation may reach to
the end of the earth.'

Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his
Holy One,
to one deeply despised,
abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
'Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall
prostrate themselves,
because of the Lord, who is
faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who
has chosen you.'

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1.1–9

Paul, called to be an apostle of
Christ Jesus by the will of God,
and our brother Sosthenes,
To the church of God that is in
Corinth, to those who are
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:
Grace to you and peace from
God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always
for you because of the grace of
God that has been given you in
Christ Jesus, for in every way

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you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel

John 1.29–42

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptising with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptises with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have

testified that this is the Son of God.'

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).