

# Readings + Second Sunday after Epiphany, year A + 18 January 2026

## Prayer of the Day

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

## First Reading Isaiah 49:1-7

<sup>1</sup> 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 God  
    named me.  
<sup>2</sup> The LORD made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
    in the shadow of God's hand I was hid;  
the LORD made me a polished arrow,  
    in God's quiver I was hid away.  
<sup>3</sup> And the LORD said to me, "You are my servant,  
    Israel, in whom I will be glorified."  
<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored 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."  
<sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says,  
    who formed me in the womb to be a servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
    and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,  
    and my God has become my strength—  
<sup>6</sup> God 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."  
<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD,  
    the Redeemer of Israel, the Holy One of Israel,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
    the slave of rulers,  
"Monarchs shall see and stand up,  
    chieftains, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
    the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

## Psalmody Psalm 40:1-11

I waited patiently upon the LORD, who stooped  
    to me and heard my cry.

**The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit,  
    out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a  
high cliff, making my footing sure.**

The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song  
of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand  
in awe, and they shall trust the LORD.

**Happy are they who put their trust in the  
LORD! They do not turn to enemies or to  
those who follow lies.**

Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD  
    my God! In your plans for us, none can be  
compared with you! Oh, that I could make  
them known and tell them! But they are more  
than I can count.

**Sacrifice and offering you do not desire; you  
have opened my ears: burnt-offering and  
sin-offering you have not required.**

And so I said, "Here I am; I come. In the scroll  
of the book it is written of me:

**I love to do your will, O my God; your law is  
deep within me."**

I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;  
I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you  
know.

**I have not hidden your righteousness in my  
heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness  
and your deliverance; I have not concealed  
your steadfast love and truth from the great  
assembly.**

You are the LORD; do not withhold your  
compassion from me; may your steadfast love  
and your truth continually keep me safe.

## Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus  
by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> 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: <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and

peace from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in Christ, in speech and knowledge of every kind— <sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>God will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by whom you were called into the partnership of the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Holy Gospel John 1:29-42

*This is John the Evangelist's telling of Jesus' baptism, which we celebrated last week. It's John the Baptist's account, so it's told after the fact and a different telling than the other three Gospels.*

*The rest of this reading, verses 35-42, is the calling of Andrew and an unnamed disciple, probably John, the brother of James. This call narrative does not appear in the other Gospels.*

<sup>29</sup>John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is the one of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing

with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”

<sup>32</sup>And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup>And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One of God.”

<sup>35</sup>The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>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?” <sup>39</sup>Jesus said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where Jesus was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

<sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.

<sup>41</sup>Andrew first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup>Andrew 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).