

First Sunday after the Epiphany

18 Jan 2026

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that thy people, illumined by thy Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Isaiah 49:1-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Listen to me, O coastlands,

and hearken, you peoples from afar.

The Lord called me from the womb,

from the body of my mother he named my name.

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 labored in vain,

I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;

yet surely my right is with the Lord,

and my recompense with my God."

And 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—
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 preserved 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 servant of rulers:
“Kings shall see and arise;
 princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
 the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

The Word of the Lord

Psalm 40:1-12

1 I waited patiently upon the Lord; *
he stooped to me and heard my cry.

2 He lifted me out of the desolate pit,
out of the mire and clay; *
he set my feet upon a high cliff and
made my footing sure.

3 He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God; *
many shall see, and stand in awe,
and put their trust in the Lord.

4 Happy are they who trust in
the Lord! *
they do not resort to evil spirits or turn
to false gods.

5 Great things are they that you have
done, O Lord my God!

how great your wonders and your
plans for us! *
there is none who can be compared
with you.

6 Oh, that I could make them known
and tell them! *
but they are more than I can count.

7 In sacrifice and offering you take no
pleasure *

(you have given me ears to hear you);
8 Burnt-offering and sin-offering you
have not required, *

and so I said, "Behold, I come.

9 In the roll of the book it is written
concerning me: *

'I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep in my heart.'"

10 I proclaimed righteousness in the
great congregation; *

behold, I did not restrain my lips;
and that, O Lord, you know.

11 Your righteousness have I not
hidden in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and
your deliverance; *

I have not concealed your love and
faithfulness from the great
congregation.

12 You are the Lord;
do not withhold your compassion from
me; *
let your love and your faithfulness keep
me safe for ever.

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

A reading from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians:

Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sos'thenes,

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:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him with all speech and all knowledge— even as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ; who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

John 1:29-42

The ✕ Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John:

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, 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 before me, for he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John bore witness, “I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. I 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.’ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples; and he looked at Jesus as he walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned, and saw them following, and said to them, “What do you seek?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying; and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. 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 means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him, and said, “So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord.