

The Word of God This Week

Set time aside each day this week with other members of your household, with other members of your parish or alone to listen to and reflect on the living Word of God. Use these passages from the Lectionary that are assigned for Liturgy this week. Reflect on how the Lord is inviting you to a deeper union with him.

TODAY

1 Samuel 3:3b–10, 19
1 Corinthians 6:13c–15a, 17–20
John 1:35–42

MONDAY

Mark 2:18–22
"... no one puts new wine into old wineskins."

TUESDAY

Mark 2:23–28
"The sabbath was made for humankind..."

WEDNESDAY

Mark 3:1–6
"Is it lawful to do good... on the sabbath...?"

THURSDAY

Mark 3:7–12
"Jesus departed with his disciples to the sea..."

FRIDAY

Mark 3:13–19
"... he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles..."

SATURDAY

Mark 3:20–21
"... the crowd came together again..."

To Stay and to See

Today's Scriptures act like a bridge between the Christmas season and the public ministry of Jesus. The scene in the Gospel reading opens with John the Baptist and his followers.

Because of what we know from John the Baptist it is mostly like that his disciples lived a life of preparatory watching and waiting for the Messiah through repentance, baptism and a penitential lifestyle. They are expecting the coming of the Messiah based on their knowledge of the Old Testament.

The Gospel of John is full of deep theological meaning that teaches us the true nature of discipleship. One word in today's reading that can help us understand discipleship is in Andrew and his companion's question: "Where are you *staying*?"



Jesus' invites them to come and see, and they followed him.

In this case, the "following" doesn't mean that they became disciples. It means they wanted to observe Jesus closely based on John the Baptist's statement: "Look (*see*), here is the Lamb of God." The directive to see opened their eyes of faith so that they could see that Jesus was more than simply a rabbi.

The men followed Jesus, and the Gospel says they "remained with him that day." They *stayed* to listen and to learn.

Later, Andrew went to his brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah." He then took his brother to Jesus who gave him a new name—Cephas, or Peter.

Jesus knows our hearts and if we are open to being still (*stay*) and looking at him (*see*), he can transform each of us.



The Faith of the Church

Just as Christ pleased the Father and lived in perfect communion with God, we are called to be imitators of that divine communion. Through baptism we are incorporated into the Risen Lord and participate as members of God's family. This is our call to holiness as temples of the Holy Spirit. In following Christ, we are led to become children of the light (Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1694–1695).



Questions of the Week

Andrew is so excited over his new insights that he rushes to share the news with his brother, Simon. Andrew *points out* Jesus to his brother. Through the witness of his brother, Simon believes and is given a new name, Peter. Similarly, John the Baptist lets go of his claim over his followers, *pointing to* Jesus as the One long awaited.

Adults

In what ways do I point (witness) to Jesus as I share my life with others.

Children

What would I say to Jesus if I spent an afternoon with him?

Responding to God's Word . . .

The call of the scriptural passages for this Sunday is to follow Jesus. Samuel is called three times before he realizes it is a divine call. His response sends him on a journey of prophetic revelations of God's will and the promise of God's lasting presence. In Paul's letter to Corinth, we discover the call includes a wholistic surrender to God—body, mind, and spirit. We are temples of the Spirit!

John helps us understand that the call evolves over several stages. First we see the Risen Christ passing by each day in people, nature, and

circumstances. Then, prompted by the Spirit we are moved to "come and see," to discover more. This involves our abiding, that is, staying with Christ in quiet reflection, conversation and openness. When we experience the depths of communion with the Risen Lord, we are transformed into a new creation.

To follow Christ as a disciple does not merely imply walking behind Jesus. Nor is it just about being nice to others. It is a deep commitment and dedication to live in community as part of the household of God.

SUGGESTIONS

Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's Word this week.

In the home. Create a "sacred space" in your home where you can quietly converse with the Lord.

In the workplace or in school. Form the habit of "pointing to" Jesus when given a compliment or personal praise.

In the community. Help prepare a gathering where various members of your parish community can witness to the action of Jesus in their daily lives.



Meditation Moment

An elderly man had just been admitted to a hospital for treatment. After the nurse made him comfortable, she asked him a few routine questions. One was, "What is your religious preference?" The man looked at her and said, "I'm awfully glad you asked me that. I've always wanted to be a Catholic, but nobody ever asked me before."

For reflection . . .

Andrew's sharing of his faith in Jesus and the old man's response to the nurse invite me to ask, What answer would I give Jesus if he asked me why I don't share my faith with others more than I do?

[JESUS SAID,]

"WHAT I AM TELLING YOU IN THE DARK YOU MUST REPEAT IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, AND WHAT YOU HAVE HEARD IN PRIVATE YOU MUST ANNOUNCE FROM THE ROOFTOPS."

MATTHEW 10:27

FROM *MISSION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

Open My Eyes

Open my eyes, O Lord, that I might see you in the wonders of winter, in the faces of my family, and in the loveliness of time spent in quiet. Place a new song on my lips that I may praise you for the gift of faith. Guide me as I follow your way through the daily tasks that fill my life. Help me proclaim your presence in times of joy and sorrow. Keep me enclosed in your abiding embrace.
Amen.

Carry this thought in your heart as a guide for your faith journey this week.

Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.

Psalm 66:5

Profile in Faith

Saint Roseline

Saint Roseline (1267–1329) was born to an aristocratic family in France. As a child, legend tells of her distribution of food to the poor. She was received into the Carthusian convent of Bertrand at the age of 25. She was known for her visions, miracles and ability to read minds.
Feast day: Jan. 17.

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