

22 January 2023 - Third Sunday of Epiphany

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 9.1-4

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish.
In the former time he brought into contempt the land of
Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he
will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond
the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness –
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1.10-18

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that
there be no divisions among you, but that you be united
in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been
reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels
among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that
each of you says, 'I belong to Paul,' or 'I belong to
Apollos,' or 'I belong to Cephas,' or 'I belong to Christ.'
Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or
were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I
baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that
no one can say that you were baptized in my name. I did
baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I
do not know whether I baptized anyone else. For Christ
did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel,
and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ
might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those
who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the
power of God.

Gospel

Matthew 4.12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he
withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home
in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and
Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the
prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles –
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.'

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the
kingdom of heaven has come near.'

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers,
Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother,
casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen. And
he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for
people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed
him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers,
James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat
with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he
called them. Immediately they left the boat and their
father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their
synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the
kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness
among the people.

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
is the light of the world:
may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.