

## INTRODUCTION

The first reading celebrates victory in the North, with the great East to West road running through it.

The Psalm focusses on the way of the Lord

The second reading shows Paul's problems with the divisions among the community in Corinth

The Gospel recalls the first Apostles joining Jesus.

## THE FIRST READING IS FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

In the former time the Lord brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made 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 dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

*The word of the Lord*

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS

*The LORD is my light and my salvation.*

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
whom should I dread?

*The LORD is my light and my salvation.*

There is one thing I ask of the LORD,  
only this do I seek:

to live in the house of the LORD

all the days of my life,

to gaze on the beauty of the LORD,

to enquire at his temple.

*The LORD is my light and my salvation.*

I believe I shall see the LORD's goodness  
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD; be strong;

be stout-hearted, and wait for the LORD!

*The LORD is my light and my salvation.*

THE SECOND READING IS FROM THE FIRST LETTER  
OF ST PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgement.

For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarrelling among you, my brothers and sisters.

What I mean is that each one of you says, 'I follow Paul', or 'I follow Apollos', or 'I follow Cephas', or 'I follow Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

*The word of the Lord*

*THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*

*Alleluia, alleluia.*

*Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom  
and healed every affliction among the people.*

*Alleluia.*

## A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee.

And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

‘The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.’

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is to be called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them.

Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

THE REFLECTION

I'd like to think my mum was pleased to see me in the holidays from school, uni, and then the seminary in Rome, she never objected to me going away, usually driving me there. Parents can now expect to be secure, a safe life and their children to flourish away from home. Most families are smaller now to focus on giving children the best chance to develop themselves more than to look after the parents in their old age.

To understand this gospel today it is worth understanding these brothers were in a business and could rely on Zebedee running the business while they went on their great adventure. Usually there was a family duty for the brothers and for Jesus to look after the family interest; but Jesus says repeatedly that family ties must not hold you back from following him. At the End of John's Gospel Peter talked about going back to the fishing business until Jesus appears by the lakeside to foretell from Peter's declaration of his love that he had the bravery and leadership which would lead him to martyrdom and the church to flourish.

John's gospel tells us that Andrew had already met Jesus and introduced Simon at the time of John the Baptist. James and John would thus have heard about him. So the call was built of some knowledge of this man who called people to a new way of faith and hope. I used to wonder about Andrew, the disciple of John whom John called to follow Jesus. The clever series "the Chosen" a film series of the story of Jesus shows Andrew as a gentler man, introducing, supporting and dealing with argument, the other three can all be difficult at times, Peter challenging and Jesus calling the other two sons of thunder. Andrew illustrates a gentler way, introducing and encouraging the Christian life, peace keeping and encouraging. Parents, family and friends are called to do this all our lives, listening, easing difficulties by listening and encouraging. Perhaps my Mum was right in calling my younger brother Andrew who displayed those gifts in contrast to his stroppier elder brother.