

THE LIVING  
WORD  
OF  
**EPIPHANY**

A DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

January 15 - January 21

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER  
**EPIPHANY**

The art of witnessing is held between the dynamic tension of bold declaration and gracious hospitality. John 1:29-42, the Gospel reading for the second Sunday of Epiphany, brings us back to the wildness known as John the Baptist and the wonder known as Jesus the Lamb of God. From “the Baptist” we hear the confident testimony that the one walking before the crowd was “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (1:29), “the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit” (1:33), and “the Chosen One” (1:34). After such bold declarations you might expect Jesus to have some swagger when two disciples come up to him, but instead we find the gracious hospitality of a well-timed question followed by an invitation to stay with him.

Let us not separate John’s confidence from Jesus’ curiosity. John’s declarations sprang from the same fountain as Jesus’ question: God had spoken to John and God had anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit (Jn 1:32-33). The same God who set the psalmist’s feet on the rock (Ps 40:2) and formed the prophet to speak the good news to the nations (Is 40:1-7) and “is faithful” (1 Cor 1:9) was the source of John’s courageous witness and Jesus’ curious courtesy.

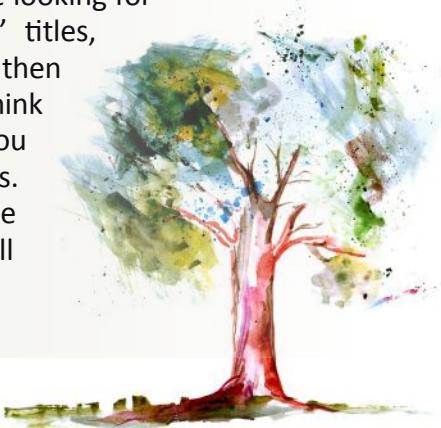
The situation of John and Jesus’ time was much like our own. There was political turmoil, relational friction, international tumult, tribal tension, and moral ambiguity. In the midst of such times, John pointed his disciples to the one who could handle it all: “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” It is incredible to see that John’s confidence was transferred to Andrew, one of the first two disciples who encountered Jesus. After beholding Jesus and being welcomed by him, Andrew found his brother Simon and witnessed to him, “We have found the Messiah!” Notice that Andrew did not merely tell his brother, but showed him by bringing him to Jesus.



This Gospel text invites us to consider two intertwined questions: What am I looking for? and What am I pointing at? Sin deceives and distracts us into looking for and pointing at the wrong things. But the gospel message is that Jesus takes away sin! And the good news of Jesus encourages and strengthens us to seek God and point to God in all things. When we seek God in all things, we become like John, Jesus, and Andrew, and our lives are transformed by his grace to become epiphanies of grace for others to see God through us.

## FOR reflection

As you read the texts this week, approach them like Andrew. First, come looking for Jesus. Make a list of Jesus' titles, descriptions, and actions and then meditate on them. Second, think of someone with whom you can share one of these insights. Pray over them and take the opportunity to show and tell what you have found.





# SCRIPTURE

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Thursday**

Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 22:15-25; Galatians 1:6-12

**Friday**

Psalm 40:1-11; Genesis 27:30-38; Acts 1:1-5

**Saturday**

Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 5:1-11

**Sunday**

Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 49:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

**Monday**

Psalm 40:6-17; Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28; Acts 8:26-40

**Tuesday**

Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 53:1-12; Hebrews 10:1-4

**Wednesday**

Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 48:12-21; Matthew 9:14-17

## Why do the daily readings begin on Thursday?

The daily readings for each week begin on Thursday and end on the following Wednesday. The Thursday through Saturday readings prepare the reader for the Sunday ahead. The Monday through Wednesday readings reflect on what was presented on Sunday.

# *The Morning Liturgy*

## *Opening Scripture*

I will give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou may be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

*Isaiah 49:6b*

## *Opening Prayer (based on Psalm 51)*

Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

*Amen.*

## *Scripture Reading (read Psalm and Gospel text here)*

## *Period of Silence*

## *Confessing Our Faith (Apostles' Creed)*

## *The Lord's Prayer*

## *The Collect (Second Sunday after Epiphany)*

Almighty God, whose son, our Savior Jesus Christ, is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your 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 Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

*Amen.*

## A Midday Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you.” Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever. Amen.

## An Early Evening Prayer

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

## A Bedtime Confession and Prayer

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

*Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all  
snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell  
with us to preserve us in peace; and  
let your blessing be upon us always;  
through Jesus Christ  
our Lord.  
Amen.*





