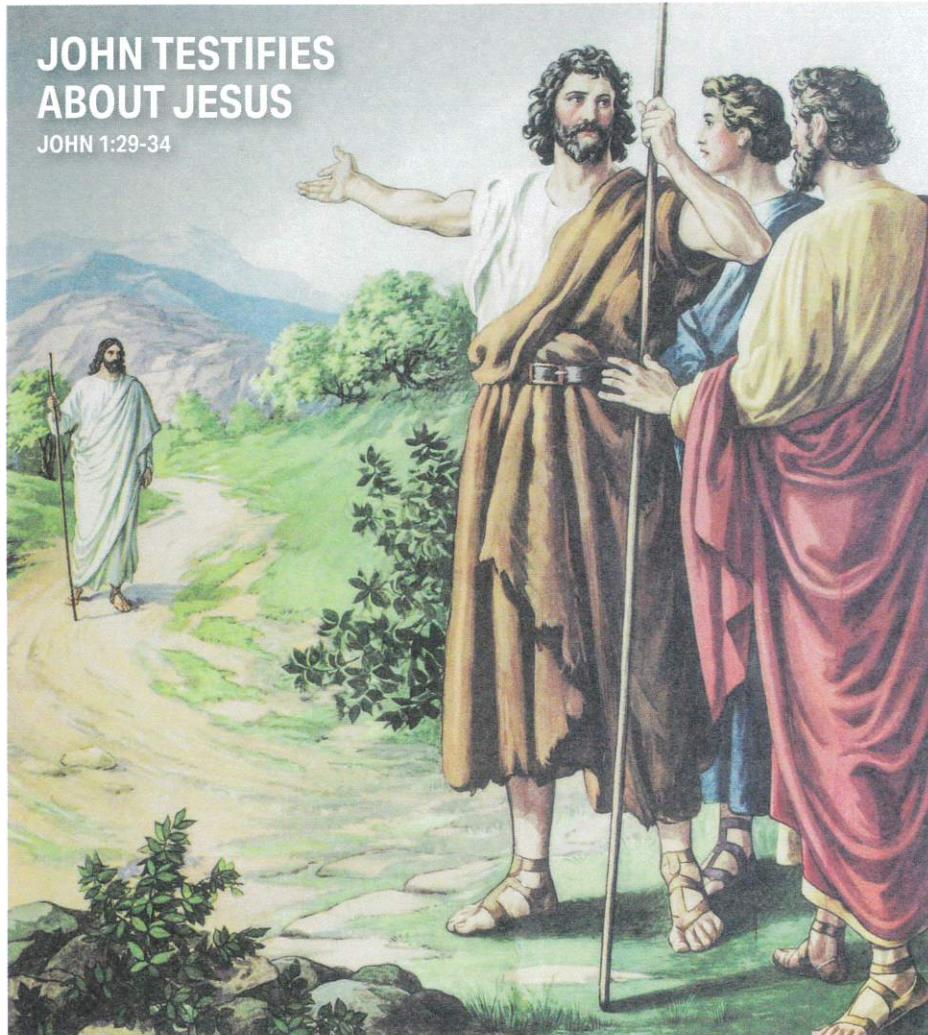


Sunday Message

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 18 January 2026 • Psalter Week 2



In this passage, John the Baptist sees Jesus coming toward him and calls Him "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

This is a powerful title. A lamb was often used in Jewish tradition as a sacrifice to God, symbolising the removal of sin. John is telling us that Jesus is the perfect sacrifice who will take away our sins once and for all.

John also says he saw the Spirit come down from heaven like a dove and stay on Jesus. This was a sign from God showing that Jesus is the Chosen One – the Son of God. John admits he didn't fully know who Jesus was at first, but this experience made it clear.

The Spirit's presence shows that Jesus has a special mission: to bring new life and forgiveness. John's testimony helps us see that Jesus is more than just a teacher or prophet – He is God's Son sent to save us.

This passage invites us to trust in Jesus as the One who takes away our sins and to follow Him with faith, knowing that God's Spirit is with Him and with us. ■

DO

Take a moment today to bring your worries or mistakes to Jesus in prayer, asking Him to take them away and to fill you with His peace and forgiveness.

LEARN

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away our sins – a gentle, loving Saviour who offers us forgiveness and calls us to trust Him completely.

REFLECT

When John the Baptist sees Jesus, he points Him out as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world". Think about that: Jesus is the Lamb – gentle, humble, but powerful enough to carry away the weight of all our mistakes, all our failures.

John's words invite us to pause and reflect. Do we really believe that Jesus can take away our sins? Do we allow Him to carry those burdens, or do we try to carry them alone? Sometimes, we hold on to guilt or shame, forgetting that Jesus offers true freedom.

John also tells us about the Spirit descending like a dove – a quiet, gentle sign that Jesus is God's Chosen One. Sometimes God's presence in our lives is not loud or dramatic, but quiet and steady, like a dove resting on us.

This passage calls us to trust – to trust Jesus with our struggles, our fears, our guilt. It reminds us that forgiveness is not just a word, but a gift freely given by God's Lamb.

Today, let's open our hearts to Jesus in a new way. Let Him be the Lamb who lifts your burdens and leads you into freedom. And let the Spirit rest gently on you, guiding you to live in peace and love. ■

SAY

St John the Baptist,
faithful witness to the Lamb of God,
pray for us that we may recognise
Jesus in our lives,
trust His mercy, and follow Him
with courage and love.
Amen.



ENTRANCE ANTIphon

*All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!*

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who govern all things,
both in heaven and on earth,
mercifully hear the pleading of your people
and bestow your peace on our times.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 49:3. 5-6

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'
And now the LORD says,
he 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 honoured 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 bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 40(39):2. 4ab. 7-8a. 8b-9. 10.

R. 8a. 9a

R: Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the LORD,
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. **R.**
2. You delight not in sacrifice and offering,
but in an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and sin offering.
Then I said, 'Behold, I have come.' **R.**
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written of me:
'I delight to do your will, O my God;
your instruction lies deep within me.' **R.**
4. Your uprightness I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

The beginning of the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.
Paul, called by the will of God to be an Apostle of Christ Jesus, and
our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in
Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in
every place call upon 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL John 1:14a. 12a

R: Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us;
to all who did receive him,
he gave the authority to become children of God.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL John 1:29-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

At that time: John saw Jesus coming towards 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, because he was before me." I myself did not know
him, but for this purpose I came baptising with water, that he might
be revealed to Israel.' And John bore witness: 'I saw the Spirit
descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself
did not know him, but he who sent me to baptise with water said
to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this
is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit." And I have seen and have
borne witness that this is the Son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
that we may participate worthily in these mysteries,
for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated
the work of our redemption is accomplished.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIphon

*You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.*

Or

*We have come to know and to believe
in the love that God has for us.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love,
and in your kindness
make those you have nourished
by this one heavenly Bread
one in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.