



Kids Lectionary Learning

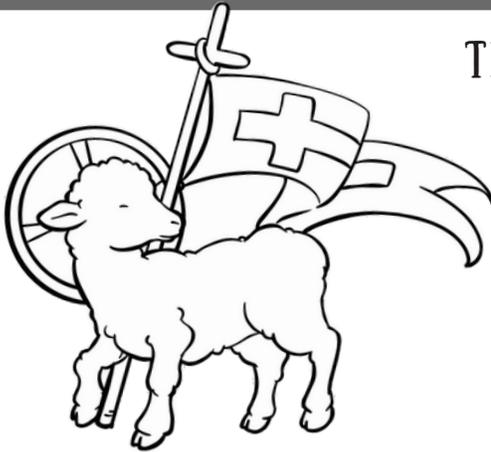
2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

TEACHING SUPPLEMENT

Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023

BIBLE LESSONS: ISAIAH 49:1-7; 1 CORINTHIANS. 1:1-9; JOHN 1:29-42

Today we continue in the season after the celebration of Epiphany and the revealing and telling that the Babe of Bethlehem is no ordinary man. He is the very Son of God. And today we consider Jesus as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)



TEACHING THE IMAGE

Our first image is of a lamb holding a flag with a cross on it. This is a well known representation of Jesus as the "lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). It is known as the Agnus Dei which is Latin for "lamb of God."

If teaching this image one can highlight the cross that is on the flagstaff and flag. This represents the victory of Christ on the Cross. Note also the nimbus (or halo) around the head of the lamb representing divinity and the Trinity.

And of course the image includes a lamb, which represents the sacrificial death of Jesus that brings us forgiveness and salvation.

ISAIAH 49:1-7 Our first reading again comes from the prophet Isaiah and is a part of the "servant song" that focuses on the idea that the servant of the Lord has something important and great in front of them. When teaching on this text, showing Jesus as the ultimate servant who suffered and gave up everything that all humankind may have salvation in Him.

Within the text are beautiful motifs and images that can well be considered and expanded. For instance, the image of being a polished arrow can capture ones imagination. Discussion or thoughts around what does it mean to be a polished arrow, or to be hidden in a quiver. One may want to discuss how it is that God does equip us to do what He has planned and that He also protects us in His Church, and He equips us with His Word and Sacraments.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9 In our second reading for today we are blessed with the opening words of St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Paul opens by proclaiming the grace and forgiveness of Jesus to the congregation in Corinth and by stating that he cares for, thinks about, and prays for the people and the work God is doing in and amongst them.

Rooted in Paul's introduction and message throughout his letter is the need for forgiveness and the reminder that we have already been given God's grace. This grace enriches them in all speech and knowledge and that they now lack "no good thing".

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TEACHING SUPPLEMENT



This speaks into the struggles that the Corinthians may have been having, such as impoverished speech, or treating one another poorly. Paul reminds them, and us now, that even when behaviour is less than godly, Paul is praying for them and God is providing for them.

They, like us, have all the love, forgiveness, and grace we need to forgive and be reconciled with one another, and to proclaim that message of grace and forgiveness in Jesus to the world.

JOHN 1:29-42 Our gospel reading for today is the beautiful and vivid proclamation in the gospel of John that Jesus is the Messiah, the "Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." In this season of Epiphany, where we continue to hear and see Jesus as being revealed as the Messiah, this is a powerful image and one that has captured the Christians Church throughout the ages.

There is a story like quality to this passage as John narrates this revealing of Jesus and the gathering of His disciples.

On the first day, John the Baptist points us towards Jesus and declares him to be the Lamb of God. It may remind us as learners of Good Friday and the crucifixion when Jesus does become the sacrificial Lamb who dies for the sins of all people. It also could remind us of Abraham and the near sacrifice of Isaac, or of the Passover and Israel's release from Pharaoh and Egypt.

Our reading then in verse 35 leads us to the next two days and the gathering of His disciples. Jesus is again seen and proclaimed to be the "Lamb of God (v.36). They state that they are looking for a Rabbi (teacher) and He bids then to follow Him.

Verses 40-42 give us the encounter with Jesus and Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, and Simon Peter, who Jesus names Cephas (which means Peter), and a name that will become important and influential later in Jesus ministry and in Peter's life.

When teaching this passage to young learners, focusing the lesson on Jesus as the Lamb of God, and/or on the disciples may "bear fruit". Jesus is more than a simple teacher, He is God who has come to save us. And Jesus doesn't not just call students to learn a few facts, He calls us, like His disciples and He makes us new, He changes us, He gives us forgiveness and salvation.

This revealing of who Jesus is is a key element to our readings today, but also to the Christian life. Let us focus on Jesus who is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world". Amen.



TEACHING THE IMAGE

The image on the second page is meant to be an image of St. Paul praying and smiling as he prays.

This image comes from Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 1:4 where he says he "gives thanks" to God for them and the grace and gifts they have been given.

Paul's closed eyes, folded hands, and smiling face, are meant to remind us that in all things we can pray and come before God in peace and in joy because of all God has done for us.