

Sunday Readings

14th January 2024

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Samuel 3:3-10, 19

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord, where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am.' Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 39:2,4,7-10. R/. vv.8. 9

R/. Here I am, O Lord. I come to do your will.

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/.**

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. **R/.**

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. **R/.**

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of
St Paul to the Corinthians

6:13-15,17-20

The body is not meant for fornication: it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; do you think I can take parts of Christ's body and join them to the body of a prostitute? Never! But anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation

1 Samuel 3:9, John 6:68

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 1:35-42

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year B

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

“...so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day.”

Friday 19 January 2021

St Wulstan (1008 - 1095)

After the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which brought the Christmas season to a close, the Church now enters into what is called 'ordinary time'.

It is worth pausing for a moment to reflect and pray about the way that the Church thinks about time because it is so different from the way that the world thinks about it. In fact, our reading today really invites us to do just that! The reading gives an account of how Jesus began gathering his disciples together. The first two were in fact disciples of John the Baptist, who were directed by John himself towards Jesus. We are told that initially these two 'stayed with him for the rest of that day'. This seemingly insignificant detail has become a description of the Christian life. To be a disciple of Jesus is to stay with him throughout the day.

Over the years the Church has developed this understanding of the Christian life into an understanding of time itself. For the disciples of Christ, for you and me, time itself is essentially a matter of staying with Christ.

There are very special periods of time (in the year) when we stay with Jesus in a very particular way. These special times we call liturgical seasons. In Advent we are with Jesus through paying particular attention to his Second Coming in glory as well as to the preparations, by Mary and others, for his first coming — his incarnation as a baby in Bethlehem. In Lent we accompany Jesus during his forty-day fast and his journey to the cross, and during Eastertide we join the whole Church in celebrating anew the awesome reality of the resurrection and the gift of the Spirit.

If the seasons are special and particular times of being with Christ, then how are we to think of ordinary time? In one sense ordinary time fills in the gap between the liturgical seasons. However, it is charged with meaning too. While God entered into our time through the incarnation of his Son and through the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' death, resurrection and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the effects of these great events spill over into every minute and every hour of every day. As a result, our whole lives are filled with the presence of God, drawing us to himself and transforming our lives.

St Wulstan (also called Wulfstan and Wolstan) was an English bishop whose ministry took place in the years immediately before and after the Norman Conquest. Born at Long Itchington, Warwickshire, he studied at the abbeys of Evesham and Peterborough, received ordination, and joined the Benedictines at Worcester. Wulstan served as treasurer of the church at Worcester, was prior of the monastery, and finally was named bishop of Worcester in 1062. After overcoming initial doubts about his ability to hold the office of bishop, he demonstrated such skill after the Norman Conquest that he was the only bishop to be kept in his post by William the Conqueror. For the next three decades, Wulfstan rebuilt his cathedral, cared for the poor, and struggled to alleviate the harsh decrees of the Normans upon the vanquished Saxons. He was a compassionate reformer and died while engaged in the daily ritual of washing the feet of a dozen poor men. He was canonized in 1203.

He is the patron saint of vegetarians and dieters.



Prayer of the Week

A Prayer for Christian Unity

Lord Jesus Christ, at your Last Supper you prayed
To the Father that all should be one.
Send your Holy
Spirit upon all who bear your name
and seek to serve
you. Strengthen our faith in you, and lead us to love
one another in humility. May we who have been
reborn in one baptism be united in one faith under
one Shepherd.
Amen