

## **Sunday of the Word of God: Called Together in Christ's Mission**

This Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, we join with the universal Church in celebrating Sunday of the Word of God, a day Pope Francis instituted in 2019 to rekindle our love for Sacred Scripture. Today, we are invited to pause and rediscover the beauty and transforming power of God's Living Word that speaks to our hearts, guides our steps, and shapes our lives.

The first reading brings us to the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali, regions once crushed under Assyrian domination, long familiar with darkness and humiliation. Yet it is precisely there that God promises a great light. The prophet Isaiah announces joy, liberation, and renewal. The message is clear and consoling: God's light often rises in the very places where we feel most helpless or defeated.

The psalmist echoes this theme with a bold proclamation of trust: "The Lord is my light and my salvation." His words resonate in our own journey, reminding us that God is already at work, illuminating our path. We are invited to stand firm, take heart, and let hope steady us.

In the second reading, Saint Paul confronts the divisions fracturing the Christian community in Corinth. Some claim allegiance to Paul, others to Apollos or Cephas, and still others invoke Christ in a way that excludes their sisters and brothers. Saint Paul responds urgently: the Gospel is not a philosophy for debate or a banner for rival groups. The proclamation of Christ crucified reveals a love that unites, heals, and reconciles. We are called to allow the light of Christ to penetrate our minds and hearts, rejecting attitudes that fracture our relationships and weakens our witness to His love.

In the Gospel, Jesus fulfills Isaiah's prophecy by beginning His ministry in Galilee of the Gentiles, a region long regarded as marginal and impure. Yet, it is precisely there that God's light breaks forth. Jesus proclaims repentance, heals the afflicted, and calls His first disciples. Peter and Andrew leave their nets behind and step into a new life of discipleship, responding to the Lord's call with trust and courage. The kingdom of God takes shape among ordinary people who offer Him their willing hearts.

We, too, are called to follow Jesus Christ with that same courage, to embrace the light of His truth, and to live in unity and love. May the Word of God transform our hearts and draw us ever more deeply into the life and mission of Christ.

Fr. Dr. Ben, Pastor.