



24 JANUARY 2021

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
&
SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

INTRODUCTION:

Pope Francis has instituted the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time as the “Sunday of the Word of God” with the intention that it be a day dedicated to the celebration, reflection and spreading of the Word of God. It reminds us of the richness of Sacred Scripture and how essential it is to our identity as Christians since God is in constant dialogue with His people through His Word and it also forms a bond of unity between all the faithful who listen to it.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS:

In the first reading, a call to repentance is delivered to the people of Nineveh by Jonah. He asks them to make a radical change in how they live their lives. In the Gospel of today, Jesus makes the same demand. “*Repent, and believe in the gospel*”. In the Psalm, we pray that we may be ready to hear, learn and be faithful to the ways of the Lord and not get engrossed with things in the world. For us as Christians, conversion of life is an on-going process throughout our whole life.

READINGS:

First Reading: Jon 3:1-5,10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 25:4-5ab,6&7bc,8-9

Second Reading: 1 Cor 7:29-31

Gospel: Mk 1:14-20

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: As Christians, we have been enlightened by God's Word. Let us therefore bring our prayers before Him with faith and humility.

Our response is: Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.

For our Pope Francis, the bishops, the clergy, the religious and all the members of the Church that we may enter into a renewed relationship with the Word of God, practicing it and keeping it active and alive in our daily lives; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For all those who proclaim the Word of God, that with deep faith and confidence, they may spread God's Word to others and be joyful witnesses to the Scriptures; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For those who are lost or who have not yet heard the Good News, that we, as Christians may willingly carry out our mission of bringing to them God's saving Word; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For all of us gathered here and those hearing online Eucharist, that we may be inspired and faithful to the Word of God; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

Celebrant: Eternal Father, You have gifted us the richness of Your incarnate Word as a constant dialogue and reminder of your presence with us. Hear our humble prayers and grant us the grace and strength to proclaim your Word to those around us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONA VIRUS

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Commission For Liturgy
Archdiocese of Bombay*