



22 JANUARY 2023

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WORD OF GOD SUNDAY



INTRODUCTION:

We have gathered together to celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God. The theme chosen for today's celebration is "Enlarge the Space of Your Tent" [Is 54:2]: Recognising the Word of God in our Life and Responding to It, the first disciples, recognise Jesus, the word of God, and his words to them by the Sea of Galilee, and respond to Him by leaving everything and following Him. Jesus in fact enlarges their nets – to be fishers of men, and they in turn enlarge their tent to accommodate and accompany Jesus. May we open ourselves to the word of God in our personal life, and in community. When our space is enlarged for the word, it is enlarged for the world as well.

READINGS:

First Reading: Is 8: 23-9: 3
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 27: 1, 4, 13-14
Second Reading: 1 Cor 1: 10-13, 17
Gospel: Mt 4: 12-23

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:

Celebrant: Gathered as the people of God, sustained by the Word of God, and called to be missionary disciples of Christ, together let us pray:

Response: Lord, may Your Word nourish us.

For the Church: that rooted in the Word of God, we may continue to build up the Body of Christ and promote the common good. Lord, we pray.

For all who teach and preach the Word of God: that their words may renew the faith of those who listen and encourage them to trust in the promise of God. Lord, we pray.

For this community: that we may have an ever-greater openness to the Word of God and allow it to enlighten the darkness of our hearts and free us to follow Jesus evermore faithfully. Lord, we pray.

For our companions on the synodal journey: that God will heal us from indifference and intolerance, so that all may work together for care for common home and humanity. Lord, we pray.

For the prayers we now make in the silence of our hearts (p-a-u-s-e). Lord, we pray.

Celebrant: Everlasting God, your Son, the eternal Word, echoed on the seashore of Galilee inviting people to repent and to follow. As we proclaim your words of life, strengthen our faith that we may read with conviction and boldness, and put into practice what we read. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.