

Introduction:

Today is the third Sunday in Ordinary time and is celebrated as Sunday of the Word of God. It is a Sunday “devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God.” and the theme is taken from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians “The Word of Christ dwells among you” (Col. 3:16). What we have received from the Apostle is not a simple moral exhortation, but the indication of a new way of living. Paul does not ask that the Word be merely listened to or studied; he wants it to dwell, that is, to shape our thoughts, guide our desires, and bear witness as disciples of Christ.

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

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: Dear brothers and sisters, gathered together to celebrate the mysteries of our redemption, we beseech Almighty God, that through his Word, our path to holiness may be renewed. Let us pray together and say:

Response: Lord, make us heralds of your Word.

1. For Leo our Pope, John our Bishop, clergy, religious and all those in authority, that they may love the Word of God more and more each day and, meditating on it deeply, may joyfully share it with the people entrusted to them, we pray to the Lord.
2. For Church called to be united in Christ, that in listening to Sacred Scripture it may discover the path to an authentic and stable unity, we pray to the Lord.
3. For Ministers of the Word who have been commissioned across the diocese (and in our church), that guided by divine wisdom, their decisions and policies help each individual fulfil their state of life, we pray to the Lord.
4. For Parents and guardians, so that enlightened and strengthened by God's Word, they may have the wisdom to guide their children, passing on faith in Christ to them, we pray to the Lord.
5. For the Christian community, that listening to God gathered around his Word, that it may grow in unity and bear authentic witness to God's love, we pray to the Lord.
6. For each of us, that we may open our hearts to the Word of God and thus work together every day to build peace, we pray to the Lord.
7. For our personal intentions and for those who have asked for our prayers, we pray in silence ... (longer silent pause) ... we pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Hear O merciful Father, these prayers which we offer you in faith through your Son, the Word made flesh, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.