

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

O sing a new song to the Lord;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
In his presence are majesty and splendour,  
strength and honour in his holy place.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

Almighty ever-living God,  
direct our actions according to your good  
pleasure,  
that in the name of your beloved Son  
we may abound in good works.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Is 8:23-9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

In days past the Lord humbled the land of  
Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
but in days to come he will confer glory on the  
Way of the Sea on the far  
side of Jordan, province of the nations.  
The people that walked in darkness  
has seen a great light;  
on those who live in a land of deep shadow  
a light has shone.  
You have made their gladness greater,  
you have made their joy increase;  
they rejoice in your presence  
as men rejoice at harvest time,  
as men are happy when they are dividing the  
spoils.  
For the yoke that was weighing on him,  
the bar across his shoulders,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
these you break as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Ps 26

Response:

**The Lord in my light and my help.**

1. The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
before whom shall I shrink? (R.)

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
for this I long,  
to live in the house of the Lord,  
all the days of my life,  
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
to behold his temple. (R.)

3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord! (R.)

**SECOND READING**

1 Cor 1:10-13. 17

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

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our  
Lord Jesus Christ, to make up  
the differences between you, and instead of  
disagreeing among yourselves, to  
be united again in your belief and practice. From  
what Chloe's people have  
been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that  
there are serious  
differences among you. What I mean are all  
these slogans that you have,  
like: "I am for Paul," "I am for Apollos," "I am for  
Cephas," "I am for  
Christ." Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it  
Paul that was crucified for  
you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?  
For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to  
preach the Good News, and not  
to preach that in the terms of philosophy in  
which the crucifixion of Christ  
cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the  
kingdom,  
and cured all kinds of sickness among the  
people.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mt 4:12-23

(For shorter form, read between > and <)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew.

> Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus  
went back to Galilee, and leaving  
Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a  
lakeside town on the borders of  
Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy  
of Isaiah was to be  
fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!

Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,

Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness

has seen a great light;

on those who dwell in the land and shadow of  
death

a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching  
with the message "Repent, for the  
kingdom of heaven is close at hand." <

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw  
two brothers, Simon, who was  
called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were  
making a cast in the lake  
with their net, for they were fishermen. And he  
said to them, "Follow me and  
I will make you fishers of men." And they left  
their nets at once and

followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of  
brothers, James son of Zebedee  
and his brother John; they were in their boat  
with their father Zebedee,  
mending their nets, and he called them. At once,  
leaving the boat and their  
father, they followed him.  
He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in  
their synagogues, proclaiming  
the Good News of the kingdom and curing all  
kinds of diseases and sickness  
among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray,  
and in sanctifying them  
grant that they may profit us for salvation.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that, receiving the grace  
by which you bring us to new life,  
we may always glory in your gift.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

# Sunday Message

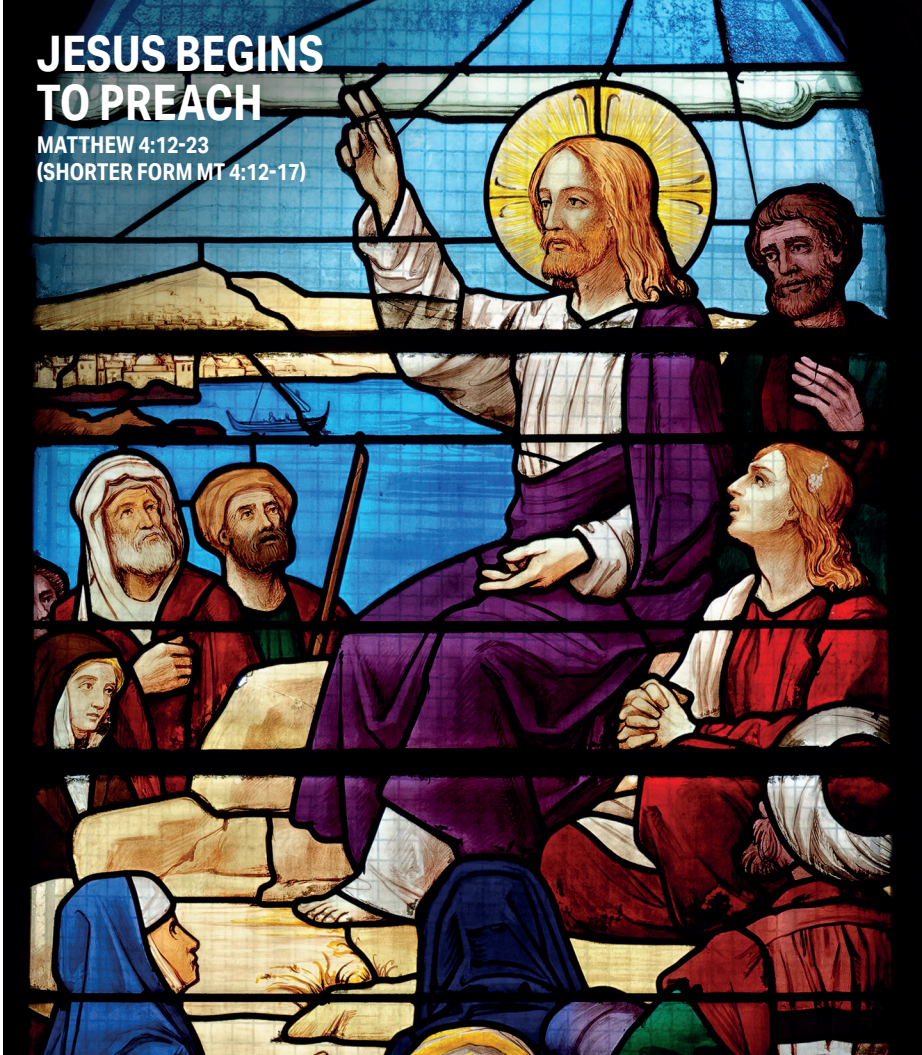
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 25 January 2026 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3

## JESUS BEGINS TO PREACH

MATTHEW 4:12-23  
(SHORTER FORM MT 4:12-17)



This passage marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. After John the Baptist is arrested, Jesus leaves Nazareth and settles in Capernaum, a town by the Sea of Galilee. Matthew tells us this fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah: "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light." Jesus brings light — hope, truth, and healing — to those who feel lost or forgotten.

From the very start, Jesus preaches a simple message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Repentance doesn't just mean feeling sorry. It means turning around, reorienting your life, and making space for God's presence.

Then Jesus calls His first disciples — fishermen at work: Peter and Andrew, James and John. He invites them with just a few words: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." Amazingly, they leave their nets, their boats, even their families, and follow Him. They don't yet know the full journey ahead, but they trust the One who calls.

This Gospel shows us that Jesus meets us in ordinary places — by the sea, at work, in everyday life — and invites us to follow Him. His light still shines in our darkness today, and His call still echoes: "Follow me." ■

## REFLECT

Jesus begins His ministry with a message that's both simple and challenging: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." That word — repent — can sound harsh, but it really means *turn around, change direction, come home to God*. Jesus doesn't begin with condemnation — He begins with an invitation.

Matthew tells us that Jesus brings light to those who sit in darkness. And we know that darkness — the darkness of fear, grief, failure, or loneliness. But Jesus enters into that shadow and brings hope. He comes to shine a light, not just for the world, but for each of us personally.

Then He calls His first disciples. They are fishermen — ordinary, hard-working people. Jesus doesn't ask for qualifications or perfection. He simply says, "Follow me." And they do. Not because they understand everything, but because something in His voice tells them this is the way.

Jesus is still calling today — not just the holy or the wise, but you and me. He meets us in our everyday lives, and says: *Come with me. I'll lead you into something deeper, something brighter.*

So if you feel stuck, tired, or uncertain — listen. His voice is near. The kingdom of heaven is close. And He is calling your name. ■

## SAY

O good Cross, made beautiful by Christ's body,  
you have been waiting for me.  
Jesus, I followed You from the shore  
when You called,  
help me now to follow You always —  
with courage, with love, and with joy,  
wherever You may lead.  
Amen.



## DO

Read the Gospel passage slowly and prayerfully, then sit in silence for two minutes, simply saying in your heart: "Here I am, Lord — I want to follow You."

## LEARN

Jesus calls us to follow Him with open hearts, to leave behind what holds us back, and to trust that His light will guide us into something greater.