

The Readings on This Day

****Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

Second Sunday after Epiphany

The standard Sundays of the year week by week present the meaning and presence of Christ and describe the Christian life. On this Sunday, John's presentation of Jesus' baptism enhances the one proclaimed from Matthew last week with more titles indicating Christ's identity.



[Isaiah 49:1-7](#)

The second Servant Song is appointed for this day to develop further the meaning of Jesus Christ and the significance of baptism for the Christians. The church has seen in the Servant Songs descriptions of Jesus Christ, who himself is the light of the nations, and has applied this passage also to baptism, as God calls the baptized to be servants to bring light to the world.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

[Psalm 40:1-11](#) is a psalm of thanksgiving in which those who are saved describe the radical change in their situation. Christians see in verse 6 a hidden reference to Christ as the Lamb who was sacrificed for us. Verses 9-10 accompany us as with the first disciples we tell others the gospel.

[1 Corinthians 1:1-9](#)

Over the course of the three years in the weeks between Epiphany and Lent, the lectionary appoints semicontinuous readings from 1 Corinthians, chosen because this seminal letter of Paul describes the communal life expected among believers and calls them to lives of love. Today's selection speaks of the church as called to be saints who call upon Jesus' name, one way that Christians have described baptism.

John 1:29-42

As is often the case, John's gospel presents a more developed Christology than do the synoptic gospels. John's account of Jesus' baptism develops the meaning of the baptism by providing more Christological titles. Christ is the sacrificial lamb, the teacher from God, and the one anointed to save the world.