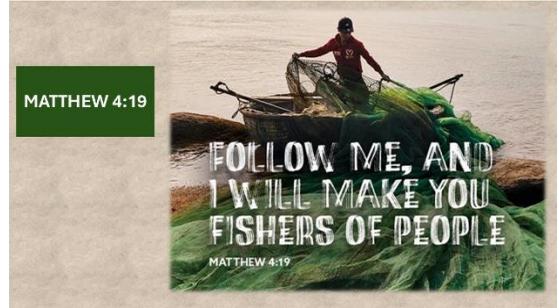


## The Readings on This Day

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

### Third Sunday after Epiphany

In Year A, the Sundays after Epiphany explore the narratives of Jesus' early ministry and preaching for their meaning for Christian faith and life.



### [Isaiah 9:1-4](#)

As is sometimes the case, the reading provides the Old Testament passage that is cited in the gospel. Along with Matthew, Christians have seen in Jesus Christ the great light that the prophet anticipates and the salvation God promised. Most of this passage is appointed also for Christmas Eve. On this Sunday, the passage stresses the light of Jesus' ministry.

### [The Psalm for the Day](#)

The reading from Isaiah spoke of a great light and of military victory, and we sing in response, [Psalm 27:1, 4-9](#), which calls God our light and salvation. In the poetic words of the psalm, we are concealed in God's tent and saved from our enemies. We seek God's face, and in the gospel reading, we encounter the divine light in the face of Jesus Christ.

### [1 Corinthians 1:10-18](#)

In today's semicontinuous reading of 1 Corinthians, Paul writes that baptism is about the death of Christ and the power of God, not about identification with quarreling groups of Christian believers. The twenty-first-century church, with its myriad denominations, humbly hears Paul addressing our current fractured situation.

## Matthew 4:12-23

Matthew refers to Jesus as the great light and stresses the immediacy of the fishermen's obedience to Jesus' call. Jesus' call is to repentance. Over the centuries, Christian theologians have variously understood what Matthew means by "the kingdom of heaven."