

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*Repent, and believe the Good News.*

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. ‘The time has come’ he said ‘and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.’

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake — for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.’ And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

21 JANUARY 2024

## METANOIA

“Repent” rings out in our readings today. Jonah, sent by God to Nineveh, delivers the message that they will be destroyed in only forty more days. “They believed God” and, with no hint that they may be reprieved, set a fast and put on sackcloth and ashes (3:5). We miss the details of this reaching the King who, joining in, makes a declaration that everyone and their animals will fast and put on sackcloth and ashes, with the hope that God might relent (vv. 6-9). God repents, changes heart and mind (Greek: *metanoō*). This metanoia, is found in the Gospel of Mark as Jesus moves from the wilderness, after forty days, to Galilee and begins his public ministry. The call to “repent” (metanoia) is couched in his declaration that “the time is fulfilled” and “the kingdom of God has come near” and is accompanied with “believe the Good News” (1:15). We know from the first verse of this Gospel that Jesus, the anointed one, the Christ and Son of God is the Good News unfolding. Our gaze is taken to Jesus in this area calling people to follow him and leave everything to do so.

Paul writing to the Corinthians further awakens our senses declaring “our time is growing short” (v. 29) and “this world is passing away” (v. 31). Sadly, we can imagine this in our time where war, famine, climate change, pandemics and much more wreak havoc. Amid this cacophony, can we hear our call to a change our heart and mind, to believe the Good News and follow Jesus?

Dr Rosemary Canavan

## FIRST READING

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

A reading from the prophet Jonah

*The people of Nineveh renounced their evil ways.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: ‘Up!’ he said ‘Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.’ Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day’s journey. He preached in these words, ‘Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.’ And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

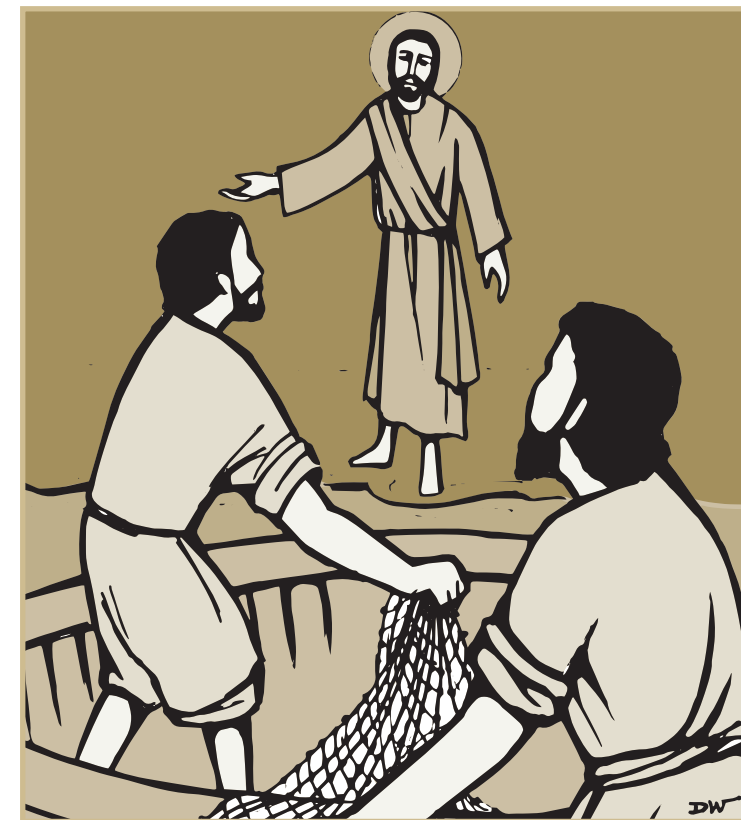
Ps 24: 4-9. R. v. 4

**R.** Teach me your ways, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. / Lord, teach me your paths. / Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: / for you are God my saviour. **R.**

2. Remember your mercy, Lord, / and the love you have shown from of old. / In your love remember me, / because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

3. The Lord is good and upright. / He shows the path to those who stray, / he guides the humble in the right path; / he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Cor 7: 29-31

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

*The world as we know it is passing away.*

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mk 1: 15

Alleluia, alleluia! / The kingdom of God is near: / believe the Good News! / Alleluia!