

JANUARY 15, 2023
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



God works miracles through pain and suffering.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 1:29-42	Jesus, the Lamb of God
Monday	Isaiah 49:1-7	The servant's mission
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	Greetings to the Corinthians
Wednesday	Psalms 77	God's mighty deeds recalled
Thursday	John 4:46-54	Jesus heals an official's son
Friday	Acts 4:23-31	Believers pray for boldness
Saturday	Psalms 40:1-11	Happy are they who trust in the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 4:12-23	Jesus calls his first disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He [God] says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Isaiah 49:6 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and might, we thank you for lifting up those in need and turning shame and suffering into glory and honor through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Lord, your glory and honor are seen in your care for those in need, including our need for this meal. We give you thanks through Jesus, the Lamb of God. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father bless you with grace and peace. (1 Corinthians 1:2)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Now Behold the Lamb



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about a time you have experienced an embarrassing moment.
- How has God been with you when you have experienced embarrassment or suffering?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 49:1-7.

As a nation in the ancient world, Israel had experienced the worst shame imaginable: total destruction with its leadership exiled in a foreign land. Isaiah speaks the voice of this shamed people: "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity" (v. 4). However, the good news is that God doesn't see it that way. The glory of God's people is so great that the restoration of the nation is not enough. Israel will be the beacon to the nations. Kings and princes will acknowledge the greatness of God (and Israel). The nation that was despised and ridiculed is now the source of hope for all the world. Salvation received by God's chosen people will now extend to all the world. Epiphany is a time to witness to the whole world, announcing the glory and saving work of God. Jesus says, "Come and see" (John 1:39). The glory and honor of God now is shown in his Son, the lamb of God who was slain. It is still true that God works miracles through pain and suffering.

Discuss: Where do you see pain and suffering in the world that is in need of God's saving work?

Pray: **Almighty God, you know our pain and suffering. Come Holy Spirit, come Lord Jesus, bring your saving work into our lives and world that we may know your peace and joy. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help those who may be experiencing pain and suffering?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) is one of the oldest prayers said or sung during Christian worship. Jesus is referred to as the Lamb of God in the Gospel of John and in Revelation. Just as lambs were sacrificed for the sins of Israel, Jesus died and was sacrificed for the sins of the world. Light a candle this week and think about how Jesus came to bring love and salvation to a broken world and our broken lives.

Pray: **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace. Amen.**



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