

## 2ND SUNDAY OF YEAR A



*Now I have seen and testified that he is  
the Son of God*

Annibale Carracci, The Baptism of Christ, 1584

### THE GOSPEL John 1:29-34

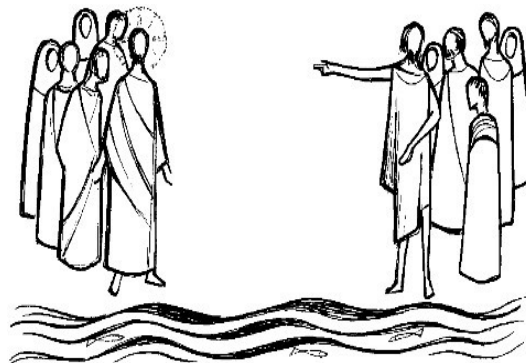
John said,  
“I did not know him.”

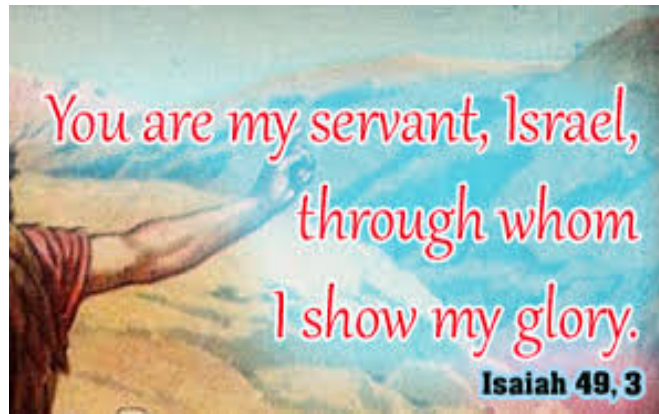
So the Spirit showed  
the Christ to him.  
And John  
replied,

*“Behold,  
the Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sin of the world.”*

Spirit, come,  
shine through our clouds.  
Teach us your love.  
Let us know  
Jesus.

Let us tell everyone about  
the Lamb of  
God.





**THE FIRST READING**

*I will make you a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.*

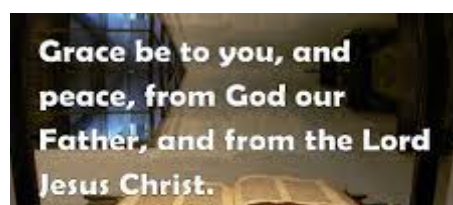
Lord,  
you made us  
glorious in your sight.  
You, the Holy One of Israel,  
the faithful covenant, have chosen us.  
Help us tell all the ends of the earth of your  
saving love.

**THE SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:1-3**

*To you, called to be holy,  
grace and peace.*

God called Paul to be an apostle.  
Now he calls all to be one,  
each in our way,  
in our place,  
our time,  
where  
we  
are.

May his grace  
and his  
peace be ours!



## Reflection

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)  
Some might attribute the quote to Jesus himself. Spoken, where else, but at the Last Supper? Not so, but John the Baptist's "Lamb of God" line should take us to the Eucharist, should revive our sense of what it means to behold and to hold—to take and eat, to see and taste and touch—our Savior and Lord. The words should also vivify and rekindle our desire to come to know Christ more intimately and to make Christ known to others.

To be sure, John did not have Eucharist on his mind when he introduced Jesus as the Lamb of God who would take away our sins. He had baptism on his mind. And it is there—to our call as baptized Christians—that the Eucharist always takes us: "Communion with the flesh of the risen Christ . . . preserves, increases, and renews the life of grace received at Baptism" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1392).

Insofar as Scripture texts that call us to a healthy eucharistic spirituality, we could not do much better than the fare set before us today. In the Christian tradition, we see Jesus in Isaiah's "Servant of the Lord" oracles. And through our baptism, we share that esteemed role.

But when God says, "it is too little for you to be my servant," God is not telling us that the more we grow in holiness, the less we need to serve others. Christ, memorably tells us he came not "to be served but to serve." In the Body of Christ, we are all rank and file—and that is a beautiful and privileged place to be.

And when God says, "I will make you a light," God is not telling us to become shining stars who forever seek the limelight. The more interested we are in being the "most noticed" or "most followed" or "most listened to"—the most anything—the more likely our motivations are misaligned. Whom, really, do we wish to make known?

Behold, the Lamb of God . . . the one who at the Last Supper in John's Gospel does not say, "Take and eat. Do this in memory of me." Instead, he quietly gets up from the table and stoops to wash the feet of his disciples.

I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do (John 13:15). Do this in memory of me.

Mary Stommes *from Give Us This Day*

