



## 3RD SUNDAY OF YEAR A

### *THE GOSPEL* Matthew 4:12-23

*He called them, and immediately they left  
their boat  
and their father and followed him*

“Come after me,”  
he said.

They dropped their nets and followed  
the deep desires of their hearts.

They learned to heal.  
To love.

Lord, thank you for calling us too.  
For accepting the beauty,  
the blindness of us,  
the warmth,  
the cold  
of us.

Teach us to leave our nets and our works  
to come and follow you in love,  
to seek out your  
people.

### *THE FIRST READING* Isaiah 8:23-9:3

*Anguish has taken wing; dispelled is  
darkness.*

From a murky corner  
west of the Jordan  
there shone a  
small light.

It showed though all the world's darkness and  
distress,  
and lifted weights from shoulders, and



smashed  
yokes and taskmasters' rods.

Christ, help us.  
Let us glimpse your light.

Let us serve all  
who suffer.

Let us be your light  
for others

***THE SECOND READING*** 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

*It has been reported that there are rivalries among you.*



Jesus,  
when we are divided,  
gather us together into one soul.

Yours.

And if we should put on strife,  
then, give us your heart instead. (*Annie Osdieck*)



## Reflection:

Jesus, Light of the World

Today's readings on this Sunday of the Word of God proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, the light of the world: a beacon who draws all peoples to himself. When the old tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali were being deported to Assyria, Isaiah promised that their land, then deeply overshadowed by turmoil and war, would one day witness a great light

in their midst (First Reading).

In the Gospel, St Matthew sees the fulfilment of this prophecy. Jesus was, and is, that light. At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus settles in Galilee, a region that corresponds to the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali. After proclaiming the kingdom of heaven, it is striking that his first action is to call his first disciples. The task of witnessing to the kingdom is not something to be done by Jesus alone. Rather he calls followers to share in and continue this work.

If we are to walk in the light of Jesus, Paul warns against tribalism, differences and division. Jesus alone is our light, not any of his followers. Paul's own role is to be a preacher to the humble and to proclaim the counter-cultural message of the cross (Second Reading).

The Psalm is an eloquent prayer of trust, where the psalmist calls on the Lord as his light and his help.

This week, we may like to ask the Lord for that light and help in our own lives, and in the lives of all humanity. We pray that we might find ways of sharing his light and compassion with all whom we meet in our suffering world.

In 2019, Pope Francis designated this Sunday as Sunday of the Word of God. It aims to help us 'appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people' and experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches.

(Taken from St. Bueno's Outreach Programme to Wrexham Diocese)



