

Sunday between 7 and 13 January
First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

First Reading - Isaiah 55.1-3,6-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Come, all who are thirsty;
 come to the water and drink.
Come, all who are in poverty;
 come for grain, and milk, and wine,
 without money,
 and without cost.
For you work,
 and you spend,
but you find
 neither food
 nor fulfilment.
So listen now
 to the word of the Lord,
and you will eat,
 and be filled,
and your soul
 will delight
 in abundance.
Come to me,
 and hear my word.
Hear my word,
 that you may live,
 says the Lord.
And the Lord
 will make with you
 an everlasting covenant.
Turn away
 from your wicked ways,
and turn to the Lord,
 for the Lord is ready to welcome you.
Turn away
 from your plotting
 for injustice,
and call upon the Lord,
 for the Lord is near.
Return to the Lord your God,
 for God will have mercy,
 and freely forgive.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 1.9-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

God's purpose is to bring
 to unity, in Christ,
all things
 in heaven
 and on earth.
God called us
 to live
 to the praise of God's glory, in Christ.
And whilst we
 were the first
 to place our trust in Christ,
you also
 can now live
 to the praise of God's glory, in Christ,
for you have heard
 the same message of truth,
 the same gospel of salvation;
and you have been marked
 with the same
 seal of the promised Holy Spirit, which is
 God's pledge to us
 that we are
 God's own people.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 1.29-34

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to John.

John the Baptist saw Jesus
 coming towards him,
and said, 'Here is
 the Lamb of God:
the one who takes away
 the sin of the world;
the one who comes after me,
 but ranks ahead of me,
 because he existed
 before I was born.
When God sent me
 to baptise
 with water,
God said
 that I would see
 the Spirit descend
 on the one who is to baptise
 with the Holy Spirit.
I came baptising
 with water
to make known to Israel
 the one who is to baptise
 with the Holy Spirit.
And now,
 I have seen the Spirit
 descending from heaven
 like a dove,
 and resting upon him.
And so I declare
 that this is
 the Son of God.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.