

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### **A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah [9. 1–4]**

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish.  
In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun  
and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make  
glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee  
of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Hear the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 27. 1-10

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear?:

**the Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,  
come upon me to devour me:

**they shall stumble and fall.**

If an army encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid:  
**and if war should rise against me, yet will I trust.**

One thing I have asked from the Lord, which I will require:

**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,**

To see the fair beauty of the Lord:

**and to seek his will in his temple.**

For he will hide me under his shelter in the day of trouble:

**and conceal me in the shadow of his tent,  
and set me high upon a rock.**

And now he will lift up my head:

**above my enemies round about me.**

And I will offer sacrifices in his sanctuary with exultation:

**I will sing, I will sing praises to the Lord.**

O Lord, hear my voice when I cry:

**have mercy upon me and answer me.**

My heart has said of you, 'Seek his face':

**your face, Lord, I will seek.**

## A reading from The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

[1. 10–18]

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.'

Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Hear the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew  
[4. 12–25]

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

‘Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles—  
the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.’

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, people possessed by demons or having epilepsy or afflicted with paralysis, and he cured them. 25 And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

For the Gospel of the Lord,  
**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Sermon*