

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Sunday Reflection

The Mediator: You are the chosen one

The year is about 706 BC. Forty thousand exiles from Babylon return in a critical and wretched condition. Many question the promised prosperity announced with their return—the God who would come with the exiles to wipe away tears and prepare a banquet of joy (Isaiah 9; 25). The prophet gathers a large audience in Jerusalem to explain that what was foretold has a deeper meaning: the message is not intended for the house of Jacob alone, but also for the Gentiles. A future “mediator and redeemer” is coming for both the house of Jacob and the nations.

Here is the mysterious servant of God: he is formed in the womb to be the servant of God. Though he is human, his mission, nature, and strength are divine. His first task is to gather the house of Jacob. The one who entrusted him with this mission extended his mandate. He is to be a light for all the nations of the earth. (Isaiah 49:3. 5-6)

A mysterious servant is revealed by John the Baptizer. John calls him “the Lamb of God,” whose mission is to take away the darkness of the nations—the sin of the world. We know that the one John speaks about is Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus is about six months younger than John. Yet he is a mysterious person because he existed before John. Jesus of Nazareth is not merely human but of divine origin: the Spirit of God rests upon him, he is eternal, and he bestows the Spirit of God on others. (John 1:29-34)

The Baptizer testifies: “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ I have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

Today, many places across the earth bear the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The apostles of Jesus—along with Paul, Sosthenes, and many other followers—were sent to the whole world to take the light of Christ to the Gentiles. Their mission is to gather people into one assembly: the Church, the holy people of God. (1 Corinthians 1-3)

You have a mediator of divine origin, commissioned to take away your darkness. The promise is sure; therefore, never lose patience or courage, but bear witness and join the assembly of the holy people, the Church. Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you who have accepted Christ.

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