

Commentary on the Gospel for Sun, Jan 22nd 2023

Read: Today's readings introduce us to Jesus' mission. The prophet Isaiah tells us that the Messiah will come to banish darkness and death, replacing them with joy. Paul writes about the unity of those who follow Jesus, a unity founded in the Gospel and in the cross. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus calls us to abandon the past, change the way we live, and follow him.

Reflect: By baptism, we are united in the Body of Christ and so we share in his mission. Like Peter and Andrew, James and John, we are called to leave behind anything that is not God and follow Jesus wholeheartedly. Change is never easy. Facing our sinful behaviors can be embarrassing and painful. Avoiding occasions of sin is difficult and may cost us activities and relationships that we found pleasurable. It is fair to ask what we get in exchange for this effort. Jesus tells us what we will gain – the very kingdom of God. That kingdom -- a kingdom of joy, unity, love, and hope – is near.

Pray: Lord Jesus, help me to love you above all things, to follow you, and to come to your kingdom.

Act: Seek the Lord's forgiveness for your sins and make a firm commitment to change your ways.

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