

The Living Word

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

14 January 2024

First Reading 1 Sm 3:3-10.19

Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening.

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am'. Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. v. 8.9

**(R.) Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will.**

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord.
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. (R.)
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and
offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and
victim.
Instead, here am I. (R.)
3. In the scroll of the book it stands
written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. (R.)
4. Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 6:13-15. 17-20

Your bodies are members of the body of Christ.

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 1:41. 17

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have found the Messiah:

**Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and
grace.**

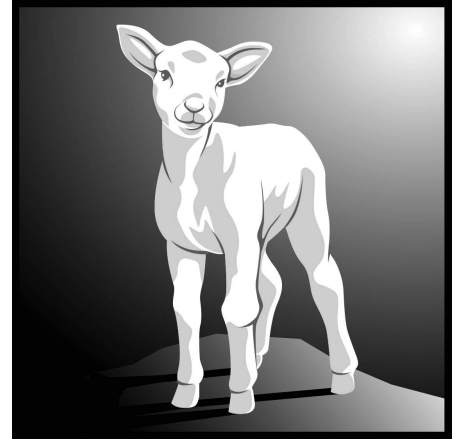
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 1:35-42

They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed with him.

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

What's in a name? A Lot, if it is God who confers the name. Jesus of Nazareth, the embodiment of God-for-us, knew the power of naming in relation to calling and destiny.

So, when Andrew brought his brother to Jesus, Jesus exercised the divine prerogative of changing Simon's name to 'Cephas' which in English is 'Peter'. Jesus gave Simon a nickname, 'rock-solid' which was the exact opposite of his character! Nevertheless, he did become the rock on which Jesus built his Church.

The tradition continues with the successor of Peter. So, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio took the name 'Francis' which indicates that he believes that the Holy Spirit inspired the Cardinals to choose him to be Pope to follow in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi.

Each one of us has a divinely ordained name (Rev 2:17) which we may not be aware of, but the Holy Spirit is always prompting us to live up to that name.

We could pause for a moment to pray that we might so live as to reach Heaven to find that name which God has loved from and for all eternity.

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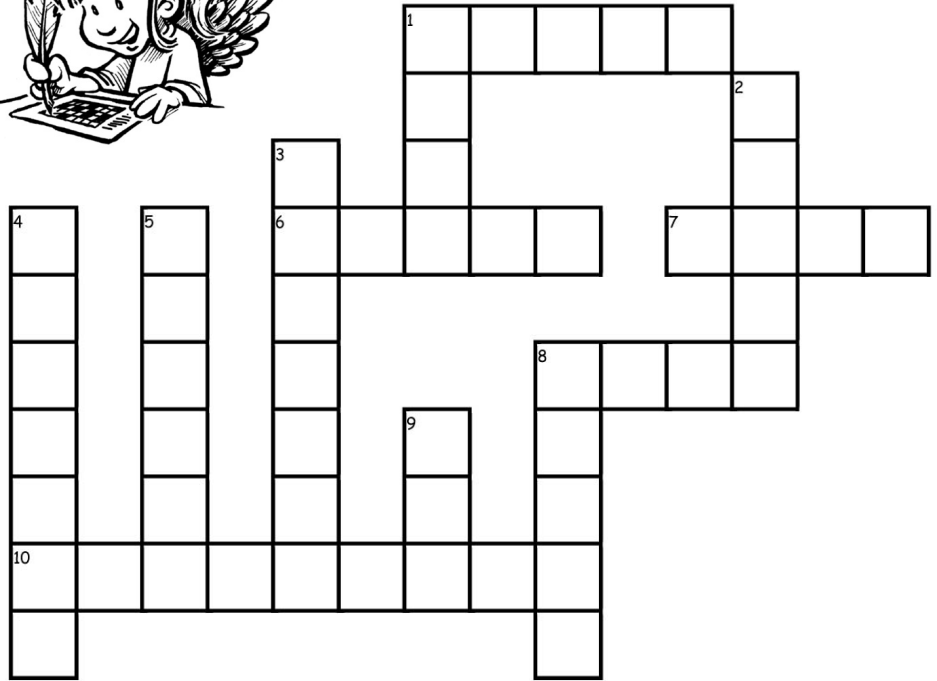
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St Sebastian was a Roman martyr from the late third century. He was a victim of the Christian persecution by Emperor Diocletian and there is little factual information about his life other than this. According to legends, Sebastian was a soldier who was made a captain of the pretorian guard by Diocletian, who did not know he was a Christian. He ministered to Christian prisoners, but was eventually found out by the Emperor, who then ordered him to be shot to death with arrows. Sebastian recovered from his wounds and confronted Diocletian, but was set upon and bludgeoned to death with clubs. This tale of Sebastian's life gave rise to him being, amongst others things, the patron of archers and arrowsmiths.



CROSSWORD



Across

- 1: John and his followers wanted to see where Jesus _ _ _ _ _
 6: this Hebrew word means 'teacher'
 7: to remain
 8: the number before five
 10: the time of day between noon and evening

Down

- 1: a young sheep
 2: Jesus told Simon he would be known by this name
 3: Andrew was Simon Peter's _ _ _ _ _
 4: the Saviour, God's chosen one
 5: this word means 'Messiah'
 8: the opposite of lost
 9: John had this many followers with him

As Andrew leads Simon to Jesus, enter each letter into the corresponding box below to reveal who they find.

