

Baptism of the Lord (Cycle A)

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

This section of the Book of Isaiah contains the words of a prophet who spoke to God's people exiled in Babylon. Four different times, the prophet speaks about a mysterious servant who will one day deliver the Israelites and make them great again. Christians have traditionally identified Jesus as this servant.

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38

The Apostle Peter was originally skeptical about preaching the Gospel to non-Jews. But one day, the Holy Spirit summoned him to preach to a Gentile -- the pagan army officer Cornelius and his household. This passage presents Peter reflecting about the remarkable effect this experience had upon him personally.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

The book of Isaiah in four different places speaks of a mysterious servant of God. This servant is sent to do great and marvelous things that touch the entire world. Christians have traditionally thought of Jesus as the fulfillment of these passages.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

For the next several Sundays our second reading will be taken from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Today's reading presents the opening words of that letter. It is an example of the salutation used in classical letter writing: Paul identifies himself, acknowledges the community to whom he is writing, and extends warm personal greetings.

