

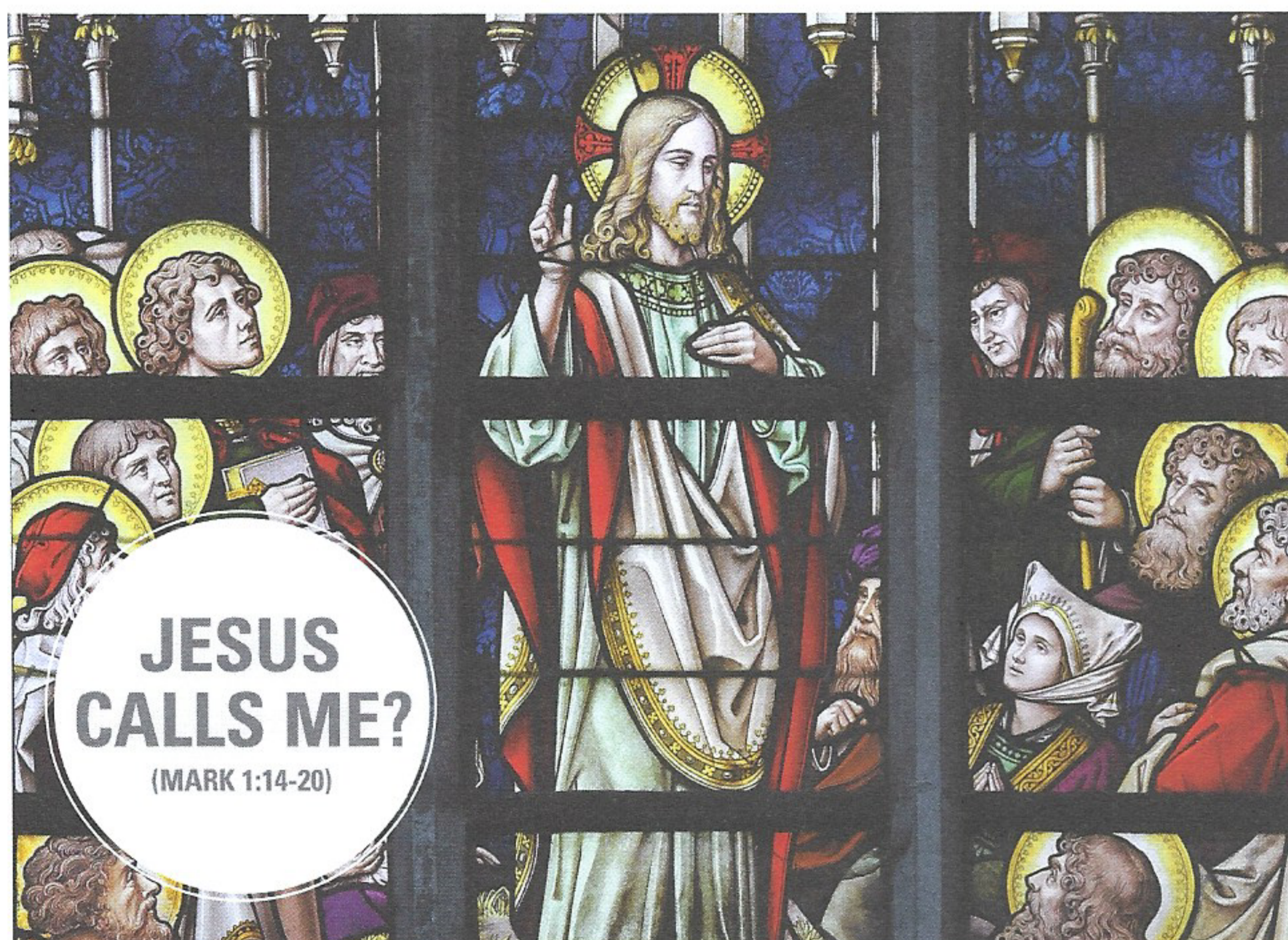
24 JANUARY 2021

Sunday Message

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • Psalter Week 3



Stained glass window in St Gummarus Church in Lier, Belgium

Our Gospel extract today falls into two sections. After the notice about the arrest and imprisonment of John the Baptist, we have an example of a characteristic feature of Mark's account, that of the summary statement.

Here the evangelist records that Jesus preached in Galilee and gives the main underlying theme of the content, namely, the approach of God's kingdom and the need to repent and accept the Good News. Apart from that, we are given no details about how Jesus presented his message.

In the second part, we hear about the call of the first disciples. Jesus is unusual in this, because normally disciples (or students) would, of their own accord, gather round a rabbi so that they could learn from his instruction and way of life. Jesus, on the other hand, takes the initiative and invites people to leave their customary occupations and follow him, both by becoming his disciples and literally going with him, leaving their families and possessions behind. Here, those invited respond immediately to his radical call, just as others will subsequently. ■

REFLECT

There is a hymn which reflects on Jesus' calling of his disciples which begins "Follow me, follow me, leave your home and family" and is often sung with great gusto by Sunday congregations. Whether we would be quite so enthusiastic if we thought that the words actually applied to ourselves is perhaps another matter. We might regard the text as a meditation on the call to the religious life, especially to missionary work overseas. But even those who accept such an invitation soon discover that life is not so simple and that daily needs have to be met, no matter how simply they try to live.

There is always a danger that we can think that certain parts of the teachings of Jesus are for a particular group of other people and therefore do not apply to ourselves. When Mark was writing, there was no priesthood that we would recognise today, no religious orders dedicated to the foreign missions: he is addressing his account of Jesus' call to all his readers. It is true that certain people have a profound conversion experience which leads them to a radical break with their past life: some people may decide to join the Church against the wishes of their family or relations. But the vast majority of us have responsibilities

SAY
Lord, teach me your ways:
Lord, show me your paths.
(Psalm 24:4)

DO

Look round your home and/or workplace: tell yourself that this is the place where Jesus is calling you to live as his disciple.

LEARN

The Sea of Galilee, also known as the Lake of Gennesareth, is an inland freshwater body of water.

It is approximately thirteen miles long and eight miles wide.

Disciples normally chose to follow the rabbi whose teachings and way of life impressed them: Jesus is unusual in selecting his disciples.



View of the Sea of Galilee from the shore

that we cannot just abandon, nor are we being asked to.

But we are all disciples of Jesus. "Repent and believe the Good News" is addressed to us today. This, for most of us, is not something that we do once and for all: it has to be a regular part of our Christian life. The fundamental vocation which we all share is to be a disciple of Jesus and to live as such in whatever way of life we find ourselves. Perhaps "repent" could mean examining ourselves to see if anything is coming between ourselves and Jesus and, if so, doing something about it. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
direct our actions according to your good
pleasure,
that in the name of your beloved Son
we may abound in good works.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

A reading from the prophet Jonah.

The word of the Lord was addressed to
Jonah: "Up!" he said "Go to Nineveh, the
great city, and preach to them as I told you
to." Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in
obedience to the word of the Lord. Now
Nineveh was a city great beyond compare:
it took three days to cross it. Jonah went
on into the city, making a day's journey. He
preached in these words, "Only forty days
more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed."
And the people of Nineveh believed in God;
they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth,
from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their
evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not
inflict on them the disaster which he had
threatened.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 24

Response:

Lord, make me know your ways.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)

2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray.
He guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians.

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those
who have wives should live as though they
had none, and those who mourn should live
as though they had nothing to mourn for;
those who are enjoying life should live as
though there were nothing to laugh about;
those whose life is buying things should live
as though they had nothing of their own;
and those who have to deal with the world
should not become engrossed in it. I say this
because the world as we know it is passing
away.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The kingdom of God is close at hand;
repent, and believe the Good News.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:14-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went
into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good
News from God. "The time has come" he
said "and the kingdom of God is close at
hand. Repent, and believe the Good News."

As he was walking along by the Sea
of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother
Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they
were fishermen. And Jesus said to them,
"Follow me and I will make you into fishers
of men." And at once they left their nets and
followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James
son of Zebedee and his brother John; they
too were in their boat, mending their nets.
He called them at once and, leaving their
father Zebedee in the boat with the men he
employed, they went after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray,
and in sanctifying them
grant that they may profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, receiving the grace
by which you bring us to new life,
we may always glory in your gift.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Truly a faithful friend is the medicine of life.
Truly a faithful friend is a strong defence.
For what will not a genuine friend perform?
What pleasure will he not afford? What
benefit? What security? Though you should
name infinite treasures, none of them is
comparable to a genuine friend.

St John Chrysostom

