



Liturgy Cycle A

Second Sunday Of The Year **The Arrival Of The Saviour**

Introduction

In the gospel of today's Mass, John the Baptist points out Jesus to the people as the long-awaited Saviour. Jesus came to take away our sins. He came to heal our wounds. He came to renew us through the Holy Spirit.

First Reading (Isaiah 49:3.5-6)

The prophet sees himself as God's servant, chosen to bring Israel back to God, and not just Israel, but all people.

Second Reading (1Cor 1:1-13)

This contains Paul's rich opening greeting to his converts at Corinth.

Gospel (John 1:29-34)

John the Baptist presents Jesus as God's Chosen Servant who will take away the sins of the people and renew them in the Holy Spirit.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Christ is now in our midst, the great Healer and Saviour whom John pointed out to his contemporaries. Let us pray that we may receive the fullness of his redemption and salvation.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the church: that Christ may heal in it the wounds caused by sin and division.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all nations: that the presence of Christ may bind them to one another in bonds of love and peace.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all the sick and the handicapped: that through the love and care of others they may find health and self worth.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



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That through the grace of the Holy Spirit we may constantly seek to overcome our sins so that we may live up to our dignity as children of God.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Communion Reflection

The part of us which is most deeply damaged by sin is the heart.

The heart is so beautiful, so innocent, but it can be destroyed, scorned, and broken.

A mother tells her how her three-year-old son was struck down with paralysis of the legs which gradually spread over his whole body. He became blind too.

**One day, some months before he died, the mother was sitting weeping by his bedside, when he suddenly turned to her and said:
'Don't cry, Mummy,
I still have a heart to love my Mummy.'**

That small boy had attained real maturity. But he had only been to attain it through the love and support of his mother.

Love redeems and saves everything. It is the holy thing that can heal the wounds of the heart.