

THIRD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

January 27, 2008

Isaiah 8: 23 – 9: 3; Psalm 27; 1 Corinthians 1: 10 – 13, 17; Matthew 4: 12 – 23
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Matthew reminds us that in the region (territory) of Zebulun and Naphtali, the Galilee of the Gentiles, a great light has shown. These two tribes were devastated at the time of the Assyrian invasion.(733-32 BC), hence the abundant joy of Isaiah when ***“the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulders and the rod of their taskmasters were smashed as in the day of Midian:”*** ..Isaiah’s joy for his people is so well expressed:

**“Anguish has taken wing,
Dispelled is darkness
for there is no gloom, where but now there was distress.
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.”**

The light, of course, is Jesus, who according to Matthew, had left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea in the territory of the former two tribes. It was here in Galilee that Jesus began to preach. It was here that the light of Christianity first shown It was here that he called His first apostles who left all to follow Him. It was of Christ, the light, that Isaiah prophesied

Today the preaching of the apostles has been put into our hands so that we might preach as St. Paul says, ***“Not with the eloquence of human wisdom so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning.”*** (second Reading) but knowing that the gifts He has given us we will use when He has need of them for others. But How?

The beautiful Psalm 27 (Response) may be an answer. Prayed with a full heart of patience, courage and trust we cannot fail in our preaching to bring the light of Christ to others .

***The Lord is my light and my salvation
Whom should I fear?
The Lord is my life’s refuge.
Of whom should I be afraid?
One thing I ask of the Lord:
To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.
That I might gaze on the loveliness of the Lord
and contemplate his temple.
I believe that I shall see the beauty of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord with courage.
Be stouthearted and wait for the Lord.***