



JANUARY 15, 2017 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 64 Gospel JN 1:29-34

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

Spiritual Reflection: John the Baptist's favorite title for Jesus is "the Lamb of God". Clearly it also became one of John the Evangelist's favorite titles, since he used it twenty-nine times in the Book of Revelation. It brings together three images that would have been familiar to the Jews of that time, and by being applied to Christ, it indicates that in him those images find their full meaning. 1. The Lamb that was slaughtered for their sins. 2. The Paschal lamb whose blood was used to mark the door posts of their house to save them from the angel of death. 3. The prophets talked about the messiah as being the lamb silently lead to slaughter.

Spiritual Questions

1. What do you think of when you hear the "Lamb of God?"
2. What is your favorite title of Jesus and why?
3. What does it mean that Jesus takes away our sins?
4. What does it mean that God saves us through the Blood of the lamb?
5. What does it mean that God offered Himself up for you?