

## **Celebration of the witness of Martin Luther King, Jr.: Readings for January 15, 2023**

### **The Collect**

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Old Testament: Isaiah 49:1-7**

Listen to me, O coastlands,  
    pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The LORD called me before I was born,  
    while I was in my mother's womb he named me.  
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
    in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow,  
    in his quiver he hid me away.  
And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
    Israel, in whom I will be glorified."  
But I said, "I have labored in vain,  
    I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,  
    and my reward with my God."  
And now the LORD says,  
    who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
    and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,  
    and my God has become my strength--  
he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
    to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
    and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
    that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."  
Thus says the LORD,  
    the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
    the slave of rulers,  
"Kings shall see and stand up,  
    princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
    the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

### **The Response: Psalm 40:1-12 *Expectans, expectavi***

- 1 I waited patiently upon the LORD; \*  
    he stooped to me and heard my cry.
- 2 He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; \*  
    he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.
- 3 He put a new song in my mouth,  
    a song of praise to our God; \*

many shall see, and stand in awe,  
and put their trust in the LORD.

4 Happy are they who trust in the LORD! \*

they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.

5 Great things are they that you have done, O LORD my God!

how great your wonders and your plans for us! \*

there is none who can be compared with you.

6 Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! \*

but they are more than I can count.

7 In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure \*

(you have given me ears to hear you);

8 Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, \*

and so I said, "Behold, I come.

9 In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: \*

'I love to do your will, O my God;

your law is deep in my heart.'"

10 I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; \*

behold, I did not restrain my lips;

and that, O LORD, you know.

11 Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;

I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; \*

I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.

12 You are the LORD;

do not withhold your compassion from me; \*

let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever,

### **The Epistle 1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,  
To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be  
saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both  
their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in  
Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every  
kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not  
lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also  
strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God  
is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **The Gospel Luke 6:27-36**

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who  
curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and  
from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs  
from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would  
have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.  
If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If  
you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to  
sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in  
return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the  
ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.