

January 15, 2023



## I COME TO DO YOUR WILL

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

### Excerpts from Today's Readings

*The LORD said to me: **You are my servant, Israel**, through whom I show my glory. Now the LORD has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb, that Jacob may be brought back to him and Israel gathered to him; and I am made glorious in the sight of the LORD, and my God is now my strength! It is too little, the LORD says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.*

**ISAIAH 49:3, 5-6**

***Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.***

*"In the written scroll it is prescribed for me,  
to do your will, O my God, is my delight,*

*and your law is within my heart!"*  
*I announced your justice in the vast assembly;*  
*I did not restrain my lips, as you, O LORD, know.*

**PSALM 40:7-9**

*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."*

**JOHN 1:29-34**

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## Reflection

Who is God's servant? Jewish scholars have different views of the servant in the four "Servant Songs" in Isaiah (42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-11; 53:4-11). In today's passage, the servant may be considered the whole nation of Israel; others suggest it is the mission of the prophet Isaiah himself, while others consider the servant to be the Messiah. This servant was called from the womb, indicating that sometimes God sets a chosen one on their vocational path even before their birth. In the case of the prophet John the Baptist in today's Gospel, even before his birth, he was destined to baptize people with water and to become a voice in the wilderness, preparing for the coming of the Messiah.

In Psalm 40, we raise our voices in union with the cry of God's servant, offering ourselves to freely follow God's path for us, because this is our joy. Here I am, Lord, I come! I too have been called to follow the path God has given to me.

"Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" John proclaimed this when he saw Jesus coming toward him, indicating to his own disciples that this is the one he had been telling them about! John testified that Jesus is the Son of God, and his disciples believed him so deeply that they turned and began to follow Jesus on the road.

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### For Pondering

- While contemplating the scriptural thread in the readings above, have you considered the ways God has called you to serve?
  - Has God chosen you to witness to the action of God in others as John was a witness to the presence of the Messiah?
  - Have you been called to serve in the mission of Jesus in your family, in your place of work, in your local community?
  - What are the ways that God might inwardly direct you into a particular path of goodness and holiness?
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### The Gift of Free Will

*God of wonders,  
You've given me the most wonderful of all gifts –  
the gift of free will.  
May my will never deviate from Your holy Will.  
Guide me always,  
so that all the choices I make are good ones –  
choices that are in harmony with Your Will,  
as long as I live.*

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