

## SERIES B TEXTS

### Seventh Sunday after Epiphany/Lectionary 7

#### Isaiah 43:18-25

<sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do **you** not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. <sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, <sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise. <sup>22</sup> Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob; but you have been weary of me, O Israel! <sup>23</sup> You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings, or honored me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, or wearied you with frankincense. <sup>24</sup> You have not bought me sweet cane with money, or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities. <sup>25</sup> I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

#### Psalm 41

<sup>1</sup> Happy are those who consider the poor; the LORD delivers them in the day of trouble. <sup>2</sup> The LORD protects them and keeps them alive; they are called happy in the land. You do not give them up to the will of their enemies. <sup>3</sup> The LORD sustains them on their sickbed; in their illness you heal all their infirmities. <sup>4</sup> As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you." <sup>5</sup> My enemies wonder in malice when I will die, and my name perish. <sup>6</sup> And when they come to see me, they utter empty words, while their hearts gather mischief; when they go out, they tell it abroad. <sup>7</sup> All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me. <sup>8</sup> They think that a deadly thing has fastened on me, that I will not rise again from where I lie. <sup>9</sup> Even my bosom friend in whom I trusted, who ate of my bread, has lifted the heel against me. <sup>10</sup> But you, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them. <sup>11</sup> By this I know that you are pleased with me; because my enemy has not triumphed over me. <sup>12</sup> But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever. <sup>13</sup> Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:18-22

<sup>18</sup> As surely as God is faithful, our word to **you** has not been "Yes and No." <sup>19</sup> For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among **you**, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not "Yes and No"; but in him it is always "Yes." <sup>20</sup> For in him every one of God's promises is a "Yes." For this reason it is through him that we say the "Amen," to the glory of God. <sup>21</sup> But it is God who establishes us with **you** in Christ and has anointed us, <sup>22</sup> by putting his seal on us and giving us his Spirit in our hearts as a first installment.

#### Mark 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup> So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door;

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and he was speaking the word to them. <sup>3</sup> Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup> And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." <sup>6</sup> Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup> "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>8</sup> At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do **you** raise such questions in **your** hearts? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? <sup>10</sup> But so that **you** may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"-- he said to the paralytic-- <sup>11</sup> "I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." <sup>12</sup> And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"