

## Homily ~ OT II (A) > January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

There is a story of a young child who once asked his father, “Why does Jesus look so weak on the cross?” The father paused and replied, “Because real love doesn’t shout - it sacrifices.” That simple answer leads us straight into the heart of today’s readings.

The central theme of today’s liturgy is a powerful challenge: to live like the Lamb of God and to die like the Lamb of God, and by doing so, to bear witness to Christ, who takes away the sins of the world. God invites us today, personally and as a community, to accept John the Baptist’s testimony and to become witnesses to the Lamb of God.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah speaks of the “Suffering Servant,” chosen from his mother’s womb and consecrated to be a *light to the nations*. This passage foreshadows Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb whose mission is the salvation of the whole world.

In the second reading, Saint Paul reminds the Corinthians - and us - that we are sanctified and called to be holy. Through Baptism, we belong to Christ. We are consecrated not for comfort, but for holiness and service.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist points to Jesus and proclaims, “*Behold, the Lamb of God.*” For his Jewish listeners, this image was rich with meaning: the lamb of sacrifice, the Passover lamb, the suffering lamb of the prophets, and the victorious lamb of God. Jesus is all of these - and more. He is the Lamb who saves by self-giving love.

So what significance it has in our life?

First, we are called to live and die like the Lamb of God.

We live like the Lamb by leading lives of purity, humility, and selfless love; by trusting in the care of the Good Shepherd; and by drawing strength from the Eucharist, the Word of God, and prayer.

We die like the Lamb when we sacrifice - sharing our time, talents, and resources; bearing suffering with faith; and offering our pain for the salvation of souls and in reparation for sin.

Second, we are called to be witnesses to the Lamb of God. Witnessing is not passive. It is a lifelong commitment. We cannot be disciples from a distance. Like love, discipleship demands closeness, fidelity, and courage. Our lives should quietly but clearly point others to Christ.

Finally, Jesus invites us to “Come and See.” This is the heart of evangelization. We naturally invite others to good restaurants or trusted doctors. Why not with the same enthusiasm, invite them to encounter Christ in the Church? If we hesitate, perhaps we need to renew our own encounter with the Lamb of God.

Today, as we approach the altar and hear the words, “*Behold the Lamb of God,*” let us ask for the grace to recognize Him, to follow Him, and to bear witness to Him - by living and dying as lambs after His own heart.