

# Reading the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle January 25th

## Reading 1, Acts 22:3-16

<sup>3</sup> 'I am a Jew', Paul said, 'and was born at Tarsus in Cilicia. I was brought up here in this city. It was under Gamaliel that I studied and was taught the exact observance of the Law of our ancestors. In fact, I was as full of duty towards God as you all are today. <sup>4</sup> I even persecuted this Way to the death and sent women as well as men to prison in chains <sup>5</sup> as the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify. I even received letters from them to the brothers in Damascus, which I took with me when I set off to bring prisoners back from there to Jerusalem for punishment. <sup>6</sup> 'It happened that I was on that journey and nearly at Damascus when in the middle of the day a bright light from heaven suddenly shone round me. <sup>7</sup> I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" <sup>8</sup> I answered, "Who are you, Lord?" and he said to me, "I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting." <sup>9</sup> The people with me saw the light but did not hear the voice which spoke to me. <sup>10</sup> I said, "What am I to do, Lord?" The Lord answered, "Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told what you have been appointed to do." <sup>11</sup> Since the light had been so dazzling that I was blind, I got to Damascus only because my companions led me by the hand. <sup>12</sup> 'Someone called Ananias, a devout follower of the Law and highly thought of by all the Jews living there, <sup>13</sup> came to see me; he stood beside me and said, "Brother Saul, receive your sight." Instantly my sight came back and I was able to see him. <sup>14</sup> Then he said, "The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see the Upright One and hear his own voice speaking, <sup>15</sup> because you are to be his witness before all humanity, testifying to

what you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup> And now why delay? Hurry and be baptised and wash away your sins, calling on his name."

## **Responsorial Psalm, *Psalms 117:1, 2***

<sup>1</sup> Alleluia! Praise Yahweh, all nations, extol him, all peoples, <sup>2</sup> for his faithful love is strong and his constancy never-ending.

## **Gospel, *Mark 16:15-18***

<sup>15</sup> And he said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the gospel to all creation. <sup>16</sup> Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will pick up snakes in their hands and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'