

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

Reading 1, Acts 22:3-16

³ '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. ⁴ I even persecuted this Way to the death and sent women as well as men to prison in chains ⁵ 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. ⁶ '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. ⁷ I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁸ I answered, "Who are you, Lord?" and he said to me, "I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting." ⁹ The people with me saw the light but did not hear the voice which spoke to me. ¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ Since the light had been so dazzling that I was blind, I got to Damascus only because my companions led me by the hand. ¹² 'Someone called Ananias, a devout follower of the Law and highly thought of by all the Jews living there, ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵ because you are to be his witness before all humanity, testifying to

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

Responsorial Psalm, *Psalms 117:1, 2*

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

Gospel, *Mark 16:15-18*

¹⁵ And he said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ 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; ¹⁸ 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.'