March 27, 2018

Year B, Revised Common Lectionary

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Miracle, Ed Ruscha, painting/film, Boston MFA, ca. 1975.

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you Isaiah 49:1-7 peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom 1 will be glorified." But 1 said, "I have labored in vain, 1 have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God." And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for 1 am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength- he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

## Psalm 71:1-14

- In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.
- ₱ In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.
- Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.
- Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.
- ▼ For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.
- ➡ Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you
  who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is
  continually of you.
- 1 have been like a portent to many, but you are my strong refuge.
- My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all day long.

- ♣ Do not cast me off in the time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength is spent.
- For my enemies speak concerning me, and those who watch for my life consult together.
- ♣ They say, "Pursue and seize that person whom God has forsaken, for there is no one to deliver."
- ♥ O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!
- ★ Let my accusers be put to shame and consumed; let those who seek to hurt me be covered with scorn and disgrace.
- ★ But 1 will hope continually, and will praise you yet more and more.

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