I had an opportunity to sit in the pews the past two Sundays while on vacation in a place that's a lot warmer than here. It's pretty easy to drift off during the readings.

Some astounding things said in today's readings —

First Reading
"You are my servant, through whom I show my glory."
"The Lord formed you as his servant from the womb."
"I will make you a light to the nations that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

Second Reading
"You have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy."

Gospel
“He [Jesus from Nazareth] will baptize in the Holy Spirit.
Drown/drench you in the Holy Spirit, the Spirit will come gushing on you.”

All this sets a tone for what we will be hearing and experiencing on upcoming Sundays.

We come here week after week to be INSPIRED. Notice the word Spirit is embedded in that word.

Story told about a 4 year-old child
awoke one night frightened.
Imagined all kinds of spooks and monsters in his room.
Ran to his parents’ bedroom.
His father calmed him and, taking him back to his own room, put on a light and reassured him with the words:
“Don't be afraid. God is here in the room with you!”
The child replied:
“I know God is here, but I want someone here who has some skin!”

God knows we need to have skin!
That is why God chose to become incarnate in it.
But God didn’t shed his earthly skin after 33 years.
Once enfleshed, he has remained in skin. We are God’s body now.
When we forgive, Christ is forgiving; when we console, Christ is consoling.
When we suffer anguish over a loved one, the lamb of God is bleeding.
Dr. Martin Luther King - today would be his 88th birthday.

“Not everybody can be famous but everybody can be great because greatness is determined by service ...
You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.”