

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This week marks the fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. You may remember that the color of Ordinary Time is green, so you will see the priests wearing green vestments during mass.

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17ab, 18-19)

The Lord said to Jeremiah, “Before I gave you life, and before you were born, I chose you to be a prophet to the nations. “Jeremiah, get ready! Go and tell those people everything I command you. Don’t be afraid of them. “Today My power will make you as strong as a fortress or a tall column of iron or a wall of bronze. You will be against everyone in Judah, its kings, leaders, priests, and all the common people. They will fight against you, but they won’t win, because I will be with you to protect you. I, the Lord, have spoken.” The word of the Lord.

Prophets like Jeremiah were not only preachers of God’s Word, they were also living examples of it. In the first reading, we hear that Jeremiah was chosen even before he was born to preach the word of the Lord. God is reminding him that he must continue to do this work, even if other people turn against him or resist him. In turn, God says that he will protect him.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 71:1-2, 3abcd, 3ef, 5a)

I will sing of your salvation.

I will sing of your salvation.

I run to You, Lord, for protection. Don't disappoint me. You do what is right, so come to my rescue. Listen to my prayer and keep me safe.

I will sing of your salvation.

Be my mighty rock, the place where I can always run for protection. Save me by Your command!

I will sing of your salvation.

You are my mighty rock and my fortress. I depend on You.

I will sing of your salvation.

In the responsorial psalm, we are hearing from a person who has spent his whole life trusting in God and singing His praises. He thinks of God as something that is strong and protective like a rock or a fortress.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, 11-13)

Brothers and sisters: Love is kind and patient, never jealous, boastful, proud, or rude. Love isn't selfish or quick tempered. It doesn't keep a record of wrongs that others do. Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil. Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting. Love never fails! When we were children, we fought and reasoned as children do. But when we grew up, we quit our childish ways. Now all we can see of God is like a cloudy picture in a mirror. Later we will see him face to face. We don't know everything, but then we will, just as God completely understands us. For now there are faith, hope, and love. But of these three, the greatest is love. The word of the Lord.

In this reading, you hear some words that you may have heard before. This is a very common passage that is read at weddings and other celebrations. It is actually not just about love, but about how the believers in Jesus Christ will act towards one another. Paul wants them to understand how love for God will influence what they do in their lives, how they practice their faith, and follow the example of Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord sent me to bring good news to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia, alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (Luke 4:20b-24, 28-30)

Everyone in the Jewish meeting place looked straight at Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, "What you have heard Me read has come true today." All the people started talking about Jesus and were amazed at the wonderful things He said. They kept on asking, "Isn't He Joseph's son?" Jesus answered: "You will certainly want to tell Me this saying, 'Doctor, first make yourself well.' You will tell Me to do the same things here in My hometown that you heard I did in Capernaum. But you can be sure that no prophets are liked by the people of their own hometown." When the people in the meeting place heard Jesus say this, they became so angry that they got up and threw Him out of town. They dragged Him to the edge of the cliff on which the town was built, because they wanted to throw Him down from there. But Jesus slipped through the crowd and got away. The gospel of the Lord.

In the gospel, we are continuing the story from last week about Jesus speaking in the temple of his hometown. Jesus is trying to make it clear to his listeners that God's salvation is available to ALL people, not just the people of Israel. This was not what the people of the time believed, and it made many of them angry. Even though his ministry is being rejected by some in his hometown, Jesus continues to expand his teachings to a larger group in other towns. Jesus wants them to understand that through the love that he offers to all, we can develop a universal love of God.

May you all find peace in the love of God.

Judy Wargaski

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