



January 31st, 2010

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray: Lord our God, help us to love you with all our hearts and to love all people as you love them. We ask this...

FIRST READING

(This reading tells of the call and commission of Prophet Jeremiah who announces God's word to all.)
A reading from the Book of Jeremiah (1:4-5,17-19)

The word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations. But you, gird up your loins; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them. And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land—against the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests, and the people of the land. They will fight against you; but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, says the Lord, to deliver you."

This is the Word of the Lord

PSALM (70)

Response: My lips will tell of your help.

In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your justice rescue me, free me: pay heed to me and save me. R./

Be a rock where I can take refuge, a mighty stronghold to save me; for you are my rock, my stronghold. Free me from the hand of the wicked. R./

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope, my trust O Lord, since my youth. On you I have leaned from my birth, from my mother's womb you have been my help. R./

My lips will tell of your justice and day by day of your help. O God, you have taught me from my youth and I proclaim your wonders still. R./

SECOND READING

(In this passage St Paul speaks of the greatest gift of all—the virtue of charity. He stresses the primacy of love in the life of a Christian.)

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (12:31–13:1-13)

Earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. “Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood. So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

This is the Word of the Lord

ACCLAMATION (Jn 1:12-14)

Alleluia, alleluia! The Word became flesh and dwelt among us; to all who received him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

(The presence and the mission of Jesus evoke different responses in the listeners. Jesus suffers the fate of all prophets: rejection by his own people.)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke (4:21-30)

Jesus began to say to all in the synagogue, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” And all spoke well of him, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth; and they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Physician, heal yourself; what we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here also in your own country.’” And he said, “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his own country. But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when there came a great famine over all the land; and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. And they rose up and put him out of the city, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw him down headlong. But passing through the midst of them he went away.

This is the Gospel of the Lord