

**Liturgy of the Word – Animated by a Deacon**  
**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**January 28<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Entrance antiphon:**

(All) **Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you** (Psalm 105, 47).

To commemorate our baptism, and to begin our celebration, let us bless ourselves with the sign of the cross:

(All) **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

(All) **And with your spirit.**

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare our hearts to hear the Word of God and to receive his body in Holy Communion:

(All)

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault,	through my most grievous fault; therefore, I ask Blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.
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May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. (All) **Amen.**

We are gathered to hear the Word of the Lord, to give thanks to God for his blessings, to seek his guidance and to give Glory for his abundant grace. With the entire Church, let us recite together:

(All)

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,	you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
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**Collect prayer**

Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honour you with all our mind, and love everyone in truth of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

(All) **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

*please be seated.*

*A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy (18, 15-20)*

Moses spoke to the people; he said: "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your own kin; you shall heed such a Prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "Let me not hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, lest I die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their own kin; I will put my words in his mouth, who shall speak to them everything that I command.

Anyone who does not heed the words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will hold him accountable. But any Prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the him to speak—that Prophet shall die."

The Word of the Lord: (All) **Thanks be to God**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Psalm 95)

**R. O that today you would listen to the voice of the Lord. Do not harden your hearts!**

O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

**R. O that today you would listen to the voice of the Lord. Do not harden your hearts!**

O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!  
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

**R. O that today you would listen to the voice of the Lord. Do not harden your hearts!**

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,  
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,  
when your ancestors tested me,  
and put me to the proof,  
though they had seen my work.

**R. O that today you would listen to the voice of the Lord. Do not harden your hearts!**

**FIRST READING**

*please be seated.*

*A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (7, 32-35)*

Brothers and sisters: I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the affairs of the Lord, how to please the Lord; but the married man is anxious about the affairs of the world, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried woman and the virgin are anxious about the affairs of the Lord, so that they may be holy in body and spirit; but the married woman is anxious about the affairs of the world, how to please her husband. I say this for your own benefit, not to put any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and unhindered devotion to the Lord.

The Word of the Lord: (All) **Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*please stand*

(All) **Alleluia. Alleluia. The people who sat in the darkness have seen a great light, and for those who**

**sat in the region and shadow of death, light has dawned. Alleluia.** (Matthew 4, 16)

The Lord be with you. (All) **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark (1, 21-28)  
(All) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The disciples went to Capernaum; and when the Sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

At once Jesus' fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
(All) **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**HOMILY**

*please be seated*

**PROFESSION OF FAITH:**

With the entire Church, let us now proclaim our Faith:

(All)

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived  
by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under  
Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died  
and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose  
again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

(Deacon) Let us now present our requests to the Lord, for the Church, for the world and for ourselves; let us pray with confidence to the Lord our God:

For the Church, speaking with God's loving authority, we pray to the Lord: (All) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For world leaders to act with integrity, we pray to the Lord: (All) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who face the future with fear or uncertainty, we pray to the Lord: (All) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For ourselves, gathered to hear and put into action God's healing love, we pray to the Lord:  
(All) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

(Deacon) God, our Father, to your greatness, there is no limit. In your great goodness, look at our desire to collaborate for a more just world and grant us the grace to work tirelessly for your greater glory and the good of all. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.  
(All) **Amen.**

**COMMUNION RITE**

As we prepare ourselves to receive the Body of Christ in Holy Communion, and following the teaching and command given by our Saviour, we dare to say,  
(All) **Our Father, who art in Heaven...**

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. You who live and reign forever and ever. (All) **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
(All) **And with your spirit.**  
Let us offer each other the sign of Peace.

*(The Holy Ciborium is brought to the altar).*

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

(All) **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

We shall now receive the Body of Christ, in Holy Communion. Let us recite together the communion antiphon:

(All) **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.** (Matthew 5, 3-4)

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*remain seated*

God our Father, in your Son Jesus you speak to us strong words that challenge us, that stir us, that put us back on the path, words that sometimes disturb us in our comforts. He speaks to us in your name with authority, for he wants evil to disappear so that life may shine. Enable us to hear Him better, in our prayers and in those we encounter. We ask this through Christ our Lord, him who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.

(All) **Amen.**

**FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING**

The Lord be with you.

(All) **And with your spirit.**

May the Lord look over each of us and each of our families, may he protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life, and may the blessing of almighty God, † *the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit*, come down on you and remain with you.

(All) **Amen.**

Let us go, in peace, to love and to serve the Lord.

(All) **Thanks be to God.**