

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(YEAR C)**

FIRST READING

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

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying,

‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
before you came to birth I consecrated you;
I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.
So now brace yourself for action.
Stand up and tell them
all I command you.
Do not be dismayed at their presence,
or in their presence I will make you dismayed.
I, for my part, today will make you
into a fortified city,
a pillar of iron,
and a wall of bronze
to confront all this land;
the kings of Judah, its princes,
its priests and the country people.
They will fight against you
but shall not overcome you,
for I am with you to deliver you –
it is the Lord who speaks.’

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 70:1-6,15,17. R. v.15)

R. 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

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians (12:31-13:13)

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to
show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but
speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a
cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy;
understanding all the mysteries there are, and
knowing everything; and if I have faith in all its
fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I
am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess,
piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body
to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good
whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous;
love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude
or selfish; it does not take offence, and it is not
resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people’s
sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to
excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever
comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts
of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail;
or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever;
and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come
when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect
and our prophesying is imperfect; but once
perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear.
When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and
think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am
a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we
are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we
shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I
have now is imperfect, but then I shall know as fully
as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope
and love; and the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation (Jn 14:5)

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord;
no-one can come to the Father except through me.

Alleluia!

Or:

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring the good news to the
poor, to proclaim liberty to captives.

R. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

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

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, 'This text is
being fulfilled today even as you listen.' And he won
the approval of all, and they were astonished by the
gracious words that came from his lips.

They said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?' But he
replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying,
'Physician, heal yourself' and tell me, 'We have
heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same
here in your own countryside.' And he went on, 'I
tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his
own country.'

'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you,
in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three
years and six months and a great famine raged
throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any
one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a
Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time
there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these
was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.'

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue
was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled
him out of the town; and they took him up to the
brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to
throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the
crowd and walked away.

The Gospel of the Lord.