

#### **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YR A)**

**FIRST READING:** A reading from the prophet Zephaniah (2:3, 3:12-13)

Seek the Lord  
all you, the humble of the earth,  
who obey his commands.  
Seek integrity,  
seek humility:  
you may perhaps find shelter  
on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave  
a humble and lowly people,  
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the  
name of the Lord.  
They will do no wrong,  
will tell no lies;  
and the perjured tongue will no longer  
be found in their mouths.  
But they will be able to graze and rest  
with no one to disturb them.

**The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3)**

**R. How happy are the poor in spirit;  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Or: Alleluia!**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age.

**How happy are the poor in spirit;  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Or: Alleluia!**

**SECOND READING** A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1:26-31)

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation (Mt 11:25)**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia!**  
Blessed are you, Father  
Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries  
of the kingdom  
to mere children.  
**R. Alleluia!**

**Or: (Mt 5:12)**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia!**  
Rejoice and be glad:  
your reward will be great in heaven.  
**R. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (5:1-12)

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Happy the gentle:  
they shall have the earth for their heritage.  
Happy those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted.  
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:

they shall be satisfied.  
Happy the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them.  
Happy the pure in heart:  
they shall see God.  
Happy the peacemakers:  
they shall be called sons of God.  
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of  
right:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and  
persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against  
you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your  
reward will be great in heaven.’

**The Gospel of the Lord.**