



Liturgy Cycle A

Fourth Sunday Of The Year **The Beatitudes**

Introduction

In today's liturgy we will see the values by which a Christian should live. While these present an enormous challenge, they offer great rewards in terms of peace, happiness and integrity.

First Reading (Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13)

This talks about the life-style of those who walk in the ways of God. Even if they are few, and, from a worldly point of view, poor and lowly, they are fortunate for they will enjoy the shelter of God's care.

Second Reading (1Cor 1:26-31)

This tells us that God does not pick people who are wise, powerful, or of noble birth, but rather those who are poor, weak, and lowly, so that no human being could possibly boast before him.

Gospel (Matthew 5:1-2)

In this Gospel we are presented with the values Christ preached and lived, and which he wants to see in his followers.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray to our heavenly father for those qualities Christ wanted to see in his followers, so that we may experience the joy and peace he promised. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, graciously hear our prayer.

That Christians may realise that there is only one kind of poverty they should fear, namely, poverty of heart-a heart where there is no love, no peace, or joy. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, graciously hear our prayer.

That all our leaders may be gentle in their dealings with others, especially with the weak and vulnerable members of the society. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, graciously hear our prayer.



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For those who mourn the loss of a loved one: that Christ may comfort them. For those who suffer for doing what is right: that Christ may strengthen them. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, graciously hear our prayer.

That we may be true peacemakers in our homes, among our neighbours, and at work. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, graciously hear our prayer.

Communion Reflection

Vincent van Gogh experienced many difficulties in the course of his short life as a painter.

From a worldly point of view that life seemed to be a total failure.

But he didn't see like this.

He said:

**'It is true that sometimes I have earned my bread,
and sometime a friend has given in charity.
It is true that my financial affairs are in a bad state.
It is true that my future looks gloomy.
It is true that I might have done better.
It is true that my studies have been neglected,
and that my needs are greater than my possessions.**

**But this is what you call going down hill?
Is that what you call doing nothing?
On the contrary, this is a powerful stream
that will bear me safely to port'.**