



Liturgy Cycle C

Fourth Sunday Of The Year **Rejecting The Prophet**

Introduction

In the Gospel of today's Mass we read of the extraordinary incident in which Jesus was chased out of his native village of Nazareth. Why? Because they couldn't take the truth he was telling them. None of us has any great desire to hear the truth, especially when it exposes unpleasant things about ourselves. We too reject the messengers God sends to us. Let us think about that for a moment. Let us turn to Christ, the messenger of God's truth, love and mercy.

Lord, you came to heal the broken-hearted.
Lord, have mercy

Lord, you came to call sinners, to repentance.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord, you continue to plead for us at the right hand of the Father,
Lord, have mercy.

First Reading (Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19)

Jeremiah was one of the greatest prophets God sent among his people. This reading tells of his call by God and of his commission as a prophet.

Second Reading (1 Cor 12:31-13:13)

This contains Paul's great hymn in praise of love. He says that for a follower of Christ love is by far the most important virtue of all.

Gospel (Luke 4:21-30)

This tells how Jesus shared the fate of every true prophet: he was rejected by his own people.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray that we may always receive Jesus and his message of good News with openness and generosity.

R: Lord, hear us in your love

For the Church : that it may continue to be a fearless voice for truth, justice and wisdom on behalf of all of God's children, but especially those who have no voice of their own. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love



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For government leaders, that they may listen the voice of the prophet who demands justice for the poor, the weak and the exploited. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love

For all those who are smug, complacent, and satisfied with a life of selfishness and mediocrity. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love

That we may never take our faith for granted, lest it become something that is barren and dead. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love

Let us pray:

Father, help us to receive Jesus, the one whom you anointed to bring good news to the poor, healing to the wounded, sight to the blind, freedom to captives, and to proclaim to all your favour and grace. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.

Communion Reflection

For a Christian, love is the greatest and the most important virtue of all.

**Without it, all my words,
no matter how wise and clever they may be,
are just so much noise.**

**Without it, even if I had faith
strong enough to work a miracle,
that faith would be worthless.
Without it, all my deeds,
even if they were the greatest ever done on this earth,
would not do me the slightest bit of good.**

**Love means being patient and kind.
It means never being jealous or boastful.
It means never being rude or selfish.
It means that I do not take offence easily.
It means that I am not resentful.
It means that I rejoice in the goodness of others
And take no delight in their sins.**

**Love is not hard though it is tough.
It means that I am always ready to excuse,
to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.
There are three things that last:
faith, hope, and love.
Love is the greatest of these.**