

Year of
Consecrated Life



5 July 2015

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

God's Prophets in an Unbelieving World

Today we are reminded that God continues to care for all human beings, including those who reject Him and wander far away in their moral life. Some of the clearest signs of His caring love are the prophets that He sends to His people to remind them of their duties and to make them understand the great harm they cause to others and themselves through their misbehavior.

Jesus, the greatest of all prophets, experienced the bitter taste of rejection and warned his disciples that they, too, would be treated in the same way. Far from discouraging us, this should bring us to do our best to be faithful to our prophetic mission in the Church and in society, following the example of Jesus himself.

In this Eucharist, let us ask for the grace to do just this, no matter what the cost.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

Greeting

P –Blessed be Jesus, the great Prophet of the Father and the anointed of the Spirit. May his grace be with you all!

All—**And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P –As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries, let us call to mind our sins. *(Pause)*

P –You do not want sinners to die, but that they go back to you and be saved. Lord,

have mercy!
All—**Lord, have mercy!**

P –You came to call sinners to conversion. Christ, have mercy!

All—**Christ, have mercy!**

P –You plead for us at the right hand of the Father. Lord, have mercy!

All—**Lord, have mercy!**

P –May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All—**Amen!**

Gloria

All—Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless 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!

Collect *(Opening Prayer)*

P –O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin, you bestow eternal gladness.

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!**

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading

Ez 2:2-5

In spite of the negative attitude of many sinners, God

does not leave a stone unturned in order to bring about their conversion. The call of young Ezekiel to go and preach to the Israelites shows God's constant concern for the salvation even of obstinate sinners.

R –A proclamation from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, rebels who have rebelled against me. They and their ancestors have revolted against me to this very day. Hard of face and obstinate of heart are they to whom I am sending you. But you shall say to them: 'Thus says the Lord God!' And whether they heed or resist – for they are a rebellious house – they shall know that a prophet has been among them."

The Word of the Lord!

All–Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 123

R –Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy!

R. M. Velez



* To you I lift up my eyes who are enthroned in heaven – as the eyes of servants are on the hands of their masters. **R.**

* As the eyes of a maid are on the hands of her mistress, so are our eyes on the Lord, our God, till he have pity on us. **R.**

* Have pity on us, O Lord, have pity on us, for we are

more than sated with contempt; our souls are more than sated with the mockery of the arrogant, with the contempt of the proud. **R.**

2nd Reading 2 Cor 12:7-10

Even great saints have their own limitations and "weak points," such as the mysterious "thorn in the flesh" mentioned by St. Paul in today's passage. In God's eyes, all that matters is our constant cooperation with His grace.

R –A proclamation from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

That I, Paul, might not become too elated, because of the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."

I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

The Word of the Lord!

All–Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation Lk 4:18

All–Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me for he sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 6:1-6

Jesus had been extremely successful at the beginning of his mission. But soon he also met with misunderstanding and opposition. In today's Gospel passage we learn that he suf-

fered his first setback in the very town where he had been raised and where he lived for about 30 years.

P –The Lord be with you!

All–And with your spirit!

P –A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All–Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples. When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands! Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

The Gospel of the Lord!

All–Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene Creed)

All–I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our

GLOSSARY: • **Brothers and sisters of Jesus:** Catholic and Orthodox traditions have constantly understood that the terms "brothers" and "sisters," when used in reference to Jesus, mean close relatives, such as cousins and step-brothers/sisters. In the Bible, in fact, the words "brother" and "sister" have a wider meaning than that of children born of the same parents.

salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit it was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P –Prophets have always been eloquent signs of God’s love for His people. We need them today as much as in the past. Let us pray for all those called to the prophetic service in our days, saying:

All—Lord, empower Your prophets!

C –That the Catholic Church may constantly fulfill her prophetic role in the world without fear, ambiguity, or compromise, let us pray! **R.**

C –That the message of the prophets of old may be wisely applied to our present situation and bear fruits of conversion and improvement, let us pray! **R.**

C –That the gift of authentic prophecy may flourish in the Church and be duly recognized by her leaders and all the faithful, let us pray! **R.**

C –That those who receive God’s call to the prophetic ministry today may not be frightened by the challenge of their mission and the prospect of rejection, let us pray! **R.**

C –That those who are called to

exercise the prophetic ministry in the Church may always conform their lives to the message they proclaim, let us pray! **R.**

C –That all those who are involved in promoting peace in our country and other parts of the world may find the indispensable cooperation of all the parties concerned, let us pray! **R.**

C –Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (Pause)
Let us pray! **R.**

P –Lord God, send us many and worthy prophets that they may help us to know Your will clearly and carry it out faithfully through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!



Preparation of the Gifts

P –Pray, brethren . . .

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P –May this oblation dedicated to your name purify us, O Lord, and day by day bring our conduct closer to the life of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface II

P –The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P –Lift up your hearts!

All—We lift them up to the Lord!

P –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All—It is right and just!

P –It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For out of compassion for the waywardness that is ours, he humbled himself and was born of the Virgin; by the passion of the Cross, he freed us from unending death, and by rising from the dead, he gave us life eternal.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

All—Holy, holy, holy . . .

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith!

All—When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again!



All—Our Father . . .

P –Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion

P –This is the Lord Jesus, the great prophet of the Father. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to his supper.

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

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

Prayer after Communion

P –Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, having been replenished by such great gifts, we may gain the prize of salvation and never cease to praise you.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

CONCLUDING RITES



P –The Lord be with you.
All–**And with your spirit!**

P –Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing. *(Pause)*
May you always listen reverently to the message of the prophets of old that reaches us through the Scriptures.
All–**Amen!**

P –May you grow in the awareness that you, too, participate in the prophetic mission of Christ.

All–**Amen!**

P –May your life be a constant witness to the prophetic message you are called to proclaim in our society.

All–**Amen!**

P –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the

Son, and the Holy Spirit.
All–**Amen!**

P –Go in peace and be prophets of the Lord in your daily life.

All–**Thanks be to God!**



REJECTED BY HIS OWN PEOPLE

Being appreciated and accepted is a basic human need. Rejection always inflicts a moral wound which hurts us all the more when it comes from the people we love.

Most of the prophets of Israel, especially Jeremiah and Ezekiel, suffered some forms of rejection at the hands of the very people to whom God had sent them. *(See the First Reading.)*

Jesus Christ, the greatest of all prophets, did not enjoy a better deal. Old Simeon had prophesied that he would be “a sign that will be opposed” *(Lk 2:34)*. And the Nazareans – the townfolk of Jesus – took upon themselves the sad task of beginning to fulfill that ominous prophecy. *(See Mk 6:3-6.)*

They thought that they knew Jesus well *(see Mk 6:3)*. He had been one of them for thirty years! When he went back to them as the “bearer of the Good News,” they refused to see and accept him as “the Christ,” the Anointed One of God, the Savior of the world – *their Savior*: Their prejudices blinded them to the point of rejecting the salvation Jesus had come to offer. And this distressed him so much. *(See Mk 6:6.)*

But the rejection by the townfolk of Nazareth was just the beginning, almost an “acted-out prophecy” foreshadowing the numerous other rejections Jesus would suffer and which would culminate in the one that brought him to Calvary – the worst rejection orchestrated and spearheaded by the religious authorities of the people.

The rejection of Jesus as the “Messiah” by the majority of the people of Israel continues to this very day. Such is their tragedy. “To his own he came. Yet his own did not accept him” *(Jn*

1:11)! Jesus wept bitterly over the failure of his people to recognize the time of God’s “visitation” *(Lk 19:41-44)*.

All these serve as a warning addressed to the whole world (including us) today. It is not enough to acclaim Jesus as “Superstar,” “wise man,” “friend of the poor.” We have to accept him especially as Son of God and Savior of all mankind. Refusal to acknowledge him as such is the worst form of spiritual suicide we could ever commit, for “there is no salvation in anyone else” *(Acts 4:12)*!

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of the saint who truly loved the youth . . .

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