

went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."
⁴⁴And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

The Word of God



Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 2, 2025

Prayer of the Day

O God, you know the perilous choices we are prone to make that fall short of your desire for human faithfulness and obedience. Without you, our fragile nature cannot survive. Support us with your Word of truth, that we may grow in faith in the midst of our trials. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10 [17-19]

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." ⁶Then I said, "Ah, LORD God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." ⁷But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD." ⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

[¹⁷"But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them. ¹⁸And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land. ¹⁹They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the LORD, to deliver you."]

Lessons for Next Week: Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]; Psalm 138;
1 Corinthians 14:12b-20; Luke 5:1-11

Psalm 71:1-6 [7-11]

¹In you, O LORD, have I | taken refuge;*
let me never | be ashamed.
²**In your righteousness, deliver me and | set me free;***
incline your ear to | me and save me.
³Be my strong rock, a castle to | keep me safe;*
you are my crag | and my stronghold.
⁴**Deliver me, my God, from the hand | of the wicked,***
from the clutches of the evildoer and | the oppressor.
⁵For you are my hope, | O LORD God,*
my confidence since | I was young.
⁶**I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;**
from my mother's womb you have | been my strength;*
my praise shall be al- | ways of you.
⁷I have become a por- | tent to many;*
but you are my refuge | and my strength.
⁸**Let my mouth be full | of your praise***
and your glory all | the day long.
⁹Do not cast me off in | my old age;*
forsake me not when | my strength fails.
¹⁰**For my enemies are talk- | ing against me,***
and those who lie in wait for my life
take coun- | sel together.
¹¹They say, "God has forsaken him;
go after | him and seize him;*"
because there is none | who will save."]

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31b - 13:13

^{31b}I will show you a still more excellent way.
¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic
powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and
if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love,
I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my
body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is
patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant

⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or
resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with
the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all
things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. As for prophecies,
they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for
knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we
prophecy in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will
pass away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought
like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I
gave up childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but
then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully,
even as I have been fully known. ¹³So now faith, hope, and love
abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Gospel: Luke 4:31-44

³¹{Jesus} went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he
was teaching them on the Sabbath, ³²and they were astonished
at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. ³³And in the
synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean
demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴"Ha! What have you
to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I
know who you are — the Holy One of God." ³⁵But Jesus rebuked
him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the
demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of
him, having done him no harm. ³⁶And they were all amazed
and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority
and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come
out!" ³⁷And reports about him went out into every place in the
surrounding region. ³⁸And he arose and left the synagogue
and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was
ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf.
³⁹And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her,
and immediately she rose and began to serve them. ⁴⁰Now when
the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with
various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on
every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹And demons also came
out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked
them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew
that he was the Christ. ⁴²And when it was day, he departed and