



A Celebration for the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sentence

Now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. (*1 Corinthians 13.14*)

Opening Prayer or Collect

Year C

Righteous God,
you confound the world's wisdom
by giving your blessing to the lowly and pure in heart:
give us such a hunger and thirst for justice
and perseverance in striving for peace,
that in our words and deeds
the world may see the promise of your kingdom,
which has been revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings for the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany (Year C)

Old Testament Jeremiah 1:4-10

A Reading from the prophet Jeremiah, Chapter 1 beginning at verse 4

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
'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.'

Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.'
But the Lord said to me,

'Do not say, "I am only a boy";
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord.'

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,
'Now I have put my words in your mouth.

See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.'

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 71:1-6 APBA p 293

- 1 To you, Lord, have I come for shelter:
let me never be put to shame.
- 2 In your righteousness rescue and deliver me:
incline your ear to me and save me.
- 3 Be for me a rock of refuge, a fortress to defend me:
for you are my high rock, and my stronghold.
- 4 Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked:
from the grasp of the pitiless and unjust.
- 5 For you, Lord, are my hope:
you are my confidence, O God, from my youth upward.
- 6 On you have I leaned since my birth:
you are he that brought me out of my mother's womb,
and my praise is of you continually.

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 1

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

*A Reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke,
Chapter 4, beginning at verse 21*

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum."' And he said, 'Truly I tell you,

no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ