

Sunday, January 28, 2024

The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1) Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- 2) 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
- 3) Mark 1:21-28

FOCUS: Jesus taught as one having authority – having power of his own.

When Jesus speaks or teaches, his words have power – for example in today’s Gospel by driving out demons. In our lives, Jesus can free us from anxiety and bring us into union with the Father in the kingdom to come. Unlike all the preceding prophets, Jesus does not simply convey God’s word and commands, he *is* God’s word in the flesh. His power derives from the Father, for he and the Father are one.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses says God will raise up a new prophet who will speak the words of God. In the second reading, Paul contrasts the divided loyalties of married people with those who are unmarried and have only the desire to please the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus commands an unclean spirit to be quiet and come out of a man in the synagogue.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to our Lord, trusting him to hear and answer our prayers.

- 1) For all members of God’s holy Church, may the Lord speak clearly to our hearts the words of love he wishes all to hear, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For lawmakers, may the Holy Spirit guide them in protecting and aiding the most vulnerable, especially the elderly and the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For refugees, those in exile, and all those displaced from their homes, may the mercy of God give them comfort and rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we be given courage to act on the words of God spoken in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they be welcomed into the Father’s house and granted eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, we know that your words are living and effective. Hear and answer our prayers, we ask, through Christ our Lord.