

Cycle B - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024

Reverence for Life Sunday in the RC Diocese of Saskatoon

“What is this? A new teaching- with authority

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 95)

*Leader: O that today you would listen to the voice of the Lord.
Do not harden your hearts.*

**All: O, come let us sing to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!**

*Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!*

**All: O that today you would listen to God’s voice!
Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah
in the wilderness, when your ancestors tested me
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. Amen.**

SHARING THE WORD

First Reading – Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses is speaking to the people before they enter the Promised Land. The whole book of Deuteronomy is his farewell speech to them. Moses will not enter into the land with them. He consoles them by telling them that God promises to raise up a prophet who will speak for God.

1. What kind of relationship does God want with the newly-freed Hebrew slaves?
2. What kind of relationship does God want with us?
3. What is it that you most long to see or experience with God?

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 7:17, 32-35

Paul wrote this letter assured that the end of time was very near. So Paul wants people to clean up their act and get ready to meet their maker. He seems to think that the single state is preferred over the married state as he feels single life offers fewer obstacles to holiness.

1. What is Paul’s urgent message?
2. Do you agree with Paul about anxieties – that those who are married have more anxieties than others? Does this make it more difficult to pursue holiness?

Gospel Reading – Mark 1: 21-28

The gospel tells of a typical day of Jesus. He first teaches in the synagogue and then performs the miracle of exorcism. Jesus is presented to us as a prophet described by Moses, who teaches with the authority of God and whose words are obeyed even by unclean spirits. There is no power on earth greater than the power of God at work in Jesus.

1. Does the image of Jesus as one who casts out unclean spirits still speak to our age?
2. How do “unclean spirits” show themselves in our world today?
3. How are we to respond to them?

LIVING THE WORD

What aspect of God's Word is challenging me/us this coming week?

PRAYING THE WORD

Leader: We pray that Jesus' teaching may rebuke the unclean spirits that torment our world: greed and violence, oppression and despair. *We pray to the Lord.*

We pray that the Lord may raise up prophets in every land, and place into their mouths the challenging words of justice, peace, and reverence for life. *We pray to the Lord.*

We pray that the people of the Holy Land, mindful of their common God, work for justice and peace and find ways to live life together in mutual forgiveness and love. *We pray to the Lord.*

(Invite personal intentions, ending with the "Our Father ...")

Closing Prayer:

Leader: God who creates, redeems and sustains us in holiness teach us how to love.

**All: Give us the heart of a child:
sensitive, trusting, open and joyful.**

*Leader: Inspire us with your Holy Spirit to set a fire
on the earth to spread your name and
your message of love
in the name of Jesus our Risen Lord.*

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us share with one another the peace of the risen Christ.