

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Saving God,  
to live as Jesus taught us  
is hard, and we often fail.  
Fill us with confidence  
in your strength  
because you love us  
and you are always by our side.  
We make this prayer to you  
through Christ our Lord.

## FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

In both of our readings, the one called to announce God's revelation is rejected by his own people. Jeremiah is called at an early age and set apart to proclaim God's message. He sees already that it will not be easy. "I don't know what to say, for I am too young." But God is the source and strength of every vocation. Jesus, too, is rejected, not because of his youth, but because he is "too local." The people find it hard to accept a prophet who comes from their own town. Both readings focus on God's call to vocation, and the stubbornness of those to whom the called are sent. Both Jeremiah and Jesus suffer at the hands of those to whom they offered God's message.

*God is the source and strength of all vocations.*

FIRST READING: *Jeremiah 1:3-7, 17-19*

*A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.*

During the time when Josiah  
was the king of Judah,  
God said to me,

"Even before  
I created you in your mother's womb,  
I knew you.  
Even before you were born,  
I chose you to be a prophet  
to all the nations of the world."

Then I said,

"But God, I can't do this.  
I won't know what to say, for I am too young."

God said,

"Do not say you are too young. I am with you.  
Go now and tell the people  
everything I tell you to say.  
Don't be discouraged by them  
and don't give up.  
I will make you as strong as iron and bronze.  
The people and their leaders  
will fight against you,  
but they will not win,  
for I am with you to save you."

*The Word of the Lord.*

RESPONSE: *Psalm 71*

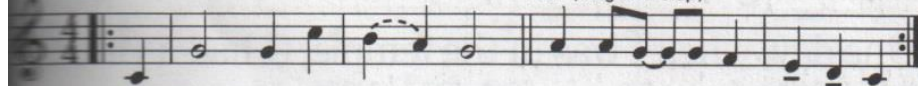
RESPONSE:

I have been yours since the day of my birth, and  
you have been my God. \_\_\_ been my God. \_\_\_

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Leader:

All: (sing and clap)



1. Your Word brings us heal - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
2. Your Word Lord is all we need. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## GOSPEL: Luke 4:15, 22-30

*A reading from the Gospel of Luke.*

When Jesus taught on the Sabbath day  
in the synagogue in his home town of Nazareth,  
all the people said wonderful things about him.

But, in fact, they wondered  
how he could be so wise, and they said,

“Isn’t he the son of Joseph?”

Jesus said to them,

“I am sure you are thinking,

‘Doctor, why don’t you heal yourself?  
Why don’t you do the miracles here  
that you did in Capernaum?’

“But I tell you, people never believe  
or accept a prophet  
who comes from their own town.

[“For example, when Elisha was a prophet,  
there were many people  
living right here in Israel who had leprosy.  
But the only leper who was healed by Elisha  
was Naaman, a man who lived in Syria.”]

When Jesus said this,  
the people in the synagogue became very angry.  
They forced him out of the town  
and took him to the top of a hill  
so that they could throw him over the cliff.  
But Jesus escaped through the crowd  
and walked away.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Reader may omit text that appears in brackets.*

## REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

Help the children appreciate  
these points.

1) God’s call is not limited.  
Jeremiah was called as a youth.  
Children, too, can proclaim God’s  
Word. How?

2) Prophets are often not accepted  
because they speak the truth. Many  
people don’t want to hear the truth.  
Sometimes we don’t either. Why?

3) Jesus can do all things if we  
believe. Sometimes our lack of faith  
keeps Jesus from doing all he would  
like to do for us.