

# PRAISE GOD!

Fourth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

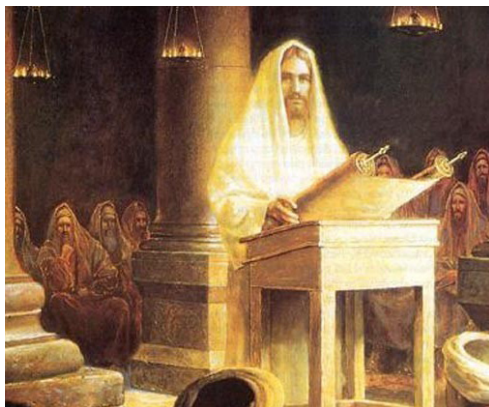


San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

January 31, 2016

## REFLECTION ON THE WORD

**T**oday this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.” However, more than one Scripture passage is being fulfilled in today’s Gospel. The words and deeds of Jesus fulfill the Scripture passage from Isaiah about the coming of salvation: glad tidings for the poor, liberty for captives, sight for the blind, freedom for the oppressed. The words and deeds of the people fulfill the Scripture passage about rejecting and killing



God’s prophets; they question Jesus’ origins, become furious at his words, and act to destroy him. Which Scripture passages do we hear? Which do we fulfill?

The demise of the prophets came about because they forced choices; the challenge of the Gospel is also that it forces choices. The comforting thing about God’s word is that we have always had the reassurance that God will protect and deliver us. The disturbing thing is that the protection and deliverance don’t always come as quickly or in the way we might like. Jeremiah ended up in a cistern, many prophets were killed, Jesus ended up on the cross. Prophets may be rejected and destroyed, but God’s word is always enduring.

One symbol of this is that Jesus does escape the crowd in today’s Gospel, demonstrating that, like God’s Word, the Gospel will prevail. And what is our response to the challenges of the gospel? Amazement of fury? Welcoming Jesus or expelling him from our midst? Growing in discipleship or stagnating in narrowness? Choosing the winning ways of the Gospel or the losing ways of narrow-mindedness? Which Scripture passages do we hear? Which do we fulfill?

*Words to reflect upon:* **do we hear?**

## LIVING YOUR PASCHAL MYSTERY

### The Suffering, Death And Resurrection Of Jesus And Our Participation In It

If we never meet doubt or opposition over values in our daily living, then we must examine how committed to the Gospel we are. Most of us aren’t called “professionally” to preach the Good News. All of us, however, because of our baptism, are committed to living it. Living the Gospel is what must shape our everyday choices and responses. This means, for example, if prejudice exists among our friends and acquaintances, we have the courage to extol la minority. Dying to oneself means that we place Gospel values before any others and are willing to stake our lives on them. We might not always concretely experience God’s protection and deliverance in the given moment; but we know from Jesus’ life that God is there when it really counts—leading us to Life everlasting.

**Words to reflect upon: “Life”**

prayer

Blessed be God!  
Blessed be his holy name!  
Blessed Be His Precious Blood Blessed be  
Jesus Christ, true God and true man!  
Blessed be the Name of Jesus!  
Blessed Be His most Sacred Heart!

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,*  
*1 Timothy 2:1*

### Let us pray together today for the chronically ill:

Sylvia Tasner, Jerry and Albert Vega, Fr. Vega, Rudy & Sonia



Méndez, Maggie and Don Maziarz, and Olga Pérez. *Let us join together in prayer as a community of faith asking God’s help for the children in Puerto*

*Rico who are living in violent and abusive situations. May those in a position to help them respond positively and rapidly to God’s prompting.*

## MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER



Pope Francis launched his yearlong push for a global Catholic Church of mercy and forgiveness on December 8th last year to begin the Jubilee year by opening the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica and calling for a church that always puts mercy before judgment. The Holy Father has noted that Holy Doors or "doors of Mercy" have been opened in the cathedrals of every diocese worldwide, as well as in individual churches and shrines by the respective bishops in order that the Jubilee of Mercy may become a global shared experience for every person. "This Extraordinary Holy Year is itself a gift of grace," Francis said. "To enter through the Holy Door means to rediscover the deepness of the mercy of the Father who welcomes all and goes out to meet everyone personally."

The Holy Door is a sign of faith in Jesus, who came to save, not to judge, the pope tells us. Those who walk through the open Holy Door should ask the Lord for help in keeping their hearts open, whereby they share the Lord's love with others. "Just as the Holy Door remains open, in order for it to be the sign of welcome which God Himself reserves for us, so too may our door always be wide open in order to exclude no one", including those we find annoying.

We are encouraged to take advantage of the grace-filled opportunity that is offered to us during this Holy Year of Mercy by visiting the Cathedral in Old San Juan to walk through the symbolic threshold of our San Juan Holy Door to an encounter with the God of Mercy. The beautiful painting of this God Of Mercy by our own Vonn Hartung that crowns our Holy Door may be seen on line at <http://www.avonnhartung.com/2015/12/22/doors-of-mercy/>

**Be merciful as your Father is merciful!**

### **The Spiritual Works of Mercy: INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT**

Perhaps the deepest spiritual understanding we can muster here is that human love is the only proof we have of the love of God. It is also the only arms God has with which to love us here and now, clearly and warmly, joyfully and achingly.



**James and Asier O'Malley with students at Vietnam Estudia**

## THE CHURCH'S FIRST DUTY IS TO PROCLAIM THE MERCY OF GOD!

—Pope Francis

## MERCY-ING

Some suggestions for keeping to mercy during this Holy Year of Mercy:

- Do something kind and helpful for someone who you don't get along with, or who has wronged you.
- Be mindful of your behavior online. Is that post designed to improve your image—and leave others feeling bad? Are you hammering people in order to serve your anger and humiliate others?
- Have masses said for the living: friends and family members, even strangers you read/hear about, who are having a hard time.
- Be generous enough to allow someone to help you; people need to feel needed.
- Take a tip from Cardinal Timothy Dolan and carry around \$5 Burger King and McDonald's gift cards for the homeless.

**Mercy Matters!** *"Go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God. ... as a sign that the kingdom of God is already present in our midst!"* — Pope Francis

## Pope FRANCIS

"Nowadays there is much talk of rights, frequently neglecting duties; perhaps we have paid too little heed to those who are hungry. It is also painful to see that the struggle against hunger and malnutrition is hindered by 'market priorities,' the 'primacy of profit,' which have reduced foodstuffs to a commodity like any other, subject to speculation, also of a financial nature. And while we speak of new rights, the hungry remain, at the street corner, and ask to be recognized as citizens, to receive a healthy diet. We ask for dignity, not for charity."

— Visit with United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome, Nov. 20, 2014

## PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE

*Gospel Luke 4:21-30*



The prophetic words of Jesus which are upsetting and which I am resisting are \_\_\_\_\_.

When the word of God I hear proclaimed demands more of me than I am willing to live, I \_\_\_\_\_.