

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2012

THE FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak — that prophet shall die."

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 8:1–13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him. ⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as in fact there are many gods and many lords — ⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. ⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not bring us close to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2012

GOSPEL

Mark 1:21–28

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2012

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A As God's beloved people made radiant by the light of Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human family, and God's good creation.

A brief silence

A Your word is truth and life, Holy One, Holy Three. Make your church bold in word and deed so the world will hear and believe the message of your redeeming love. Hear us, O God..

C Your mercy is great.

A You are gracious and full of compassion for all living things. Heal the soil, water, and air, so that all your creatures flourish. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Your works are faithfulness and justice. Guide those in authority to seek peaceful solutions to conflicts. Protect the innocent who are caught in the crossfire of ethnic and religious strife. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Your care for the weak gives us strength. We lift to you those who struggle to provide for their families, the vulnerable young, the frail elderly, the homeless, and the sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Your love builds up the community of believers. Deepen our care for one another as we reach out to those who are absent for any reason, new to this congregation, or experiencing difficult circumstances. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Holy One, Holy Three, the beloved dead are eternally in communion with you. Give us wisdom to live our days in praise, secure in the knowledge that your faithfulness endures forever. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered

P Holy God, we lift our prayers to you in hope, entrusting all for whom we pray to your great goodness and mercy, made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.