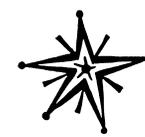


widow. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. But passing through their midst, he went away. And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority.



4 Epiphany

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



COLLECT

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING : Jeremiah 1:4-10

NOW THE WORD of the LORD came to me, saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD.” Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, “Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Refrain

My tongue will proclaim your righteousness, O God.

Psalm 71:1-6, 15-17

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| 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; * let me never be ashamed. | 6 I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength; * my praise shall be always of you. |
| 2 In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; * incline your ear to me and save me. | 15 My mouth shall recount your mighty acts and saving deeds all day long; * though I cannot know the number of them. |
| 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; * you are my crag and my stronghold. | 16 I will begin with the mighty works of the Lord GOD; * I will recall your righteousness, yours alone. |
| 4 Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, * from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor. | 17 O God, you have taught me since I was young, * and to this day I tell of your wonderful works. |
| 5 For you are my hope, O LORD God, * my confidence since I was young. | |

SECOND READING : 1 Corinthians 14:12b-20

SINCE YOU ARE EAGER for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church. Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen" to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue. Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

GOSPEL : Luke 4:21-32

IN THE SYNAGOGUE at Nazareth, Jesus read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a