

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 3, 2019



THE LESSON Jeremiah 1:4-10

¹The LORD's word came to me:

²"Before I created you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I set you apart; I made you a prophet to the nations."

³"Ah, LORD God," I said, "I don't know how to speak because I'm only a child."

⁴The LORD responded, "Don't say, 'I'm only a child.' Where I send you, you must go; what I tell you, you must say."

⁵"Don't be afraid of them, because I'm with you to rescue you," declares the LORD.

⁶Then the LORD stretched out his hand, touched my mouth, and said to me, "I'm putting my words in your mouth."

⁷"This very day I appoint you over nations and empires, to dig up and pull down, to destroy and demolish, to build and plant."

THE RESPONSE Psalm 71:1-6

I've taken refuge in you, LORD. Don't let me ever be put to shame!

"Deliver me and rescue me by your righteousness! Bend your ear toward me and save me!"

²Be my rock of refuge where I can always escape.

You commanded that my life be saved because you are my rock and my fortress.

³My God, rescue me from the power of the wicked; rescue me from the grip of the wrongdoer and the oppressor ⁴because you are my hope, LORD.

You, LORD, are the one I've trusted since childhood.

⁵I've depended on you from birth—you cut the cord when I came from my mother's womb.

My praise is always about you.

THE EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but I don't

have love, I'm a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and I know all the mysteries and everything else, and if I have

such complete faith that I can move mountains but I don't have love, I'm nothing. ³If I give away everything that I have and hand over my own body to feel good about what I've done but I don't have love, I receive no benefit whatsoever.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, ⁵it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, ⁶it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. ⁷Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never fails. As for prophecies, they will be brought to an end.

As for tongues, they will stop. As for knowledge, it will be brought to an end. ⁹We know in part and we prophesy in part; ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, what is partial will be brought to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, reason like a child, think like a child. But now that I have become a man, I've put an end to childish things. ¹²Now we see a reflection in a mirror; then we will see face-to-face. Now I know partially, but then I will know completely in the same way that I have been completely known. ¹³Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love.

THE GOSPEL Luke 4:21-30

²¹He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it."

²²Everyone was raving about Jesus, so impressed were they by the gracious words flowing from his lips. They said, "This is Joseph's son, isn't it?"

²³Then Jesus said to them, "Undoubtedly, you will quote this saying to me: 'Doctor, heal yourself. Do here in your hometown what we've heard you did in Capernaum.'" ²⁴He said, "I assure you that no prophet is welcome in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵And I can assure you that there were many widows in Israel during Elijah's time,

when it didn't rain for three and a half years and there was a great food shortage in the land. ²⁶Yet Elijah was sent to none of them but only to a widow in the city of Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷There were also many persons with skin diseases in Israel during the time of the prophet Elisha, but none of them were cleansed. Instead, Naaman the Syrian was cleansed."

²⁸When they heard this, everyone in the synagogue was filled with anger. ²⁹They rose up and ran him out of town. They led him to the crest of the hill on which their town had been built so that they could throw him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the crowd and went on his way.

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