

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

*A prophet is despised only in his own country.*

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

7 JULY 2024

## A PROPHET AMONG THEM

In the first reading Ezekiel relates his call from God to be a prophet to the people of Israel. This is a major challenge for him considering their rebellion against God plus their insolence and obstinance. God asks Ezekiel to tell them, whether they listen or not, that there is a prophet among them.

The context of being a prophet is echoed in the Gospel as Jesus is rejected in his own town, Nazareth. From the beginning of Mark's Gospel, we know who Jesus is, but we have already seen his rejection by the leaders of Israel (3:6). Now, after he has left the place where he healed the haemorrhaging woman and restored Jairus' daughter to life (last Sunday's Gospel), he comes to his own town, and his disciples follow him there. On his arrival on the sabbath he teaches in the synagogue as might be expected. His listeners' astonishment turns to disbelief. Jesus words to them convey his threefold rejection: 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' Such unbelief leaves Jesus unable to use his power though he did heal a few of the sick. Jesus' amazement at their disbelief is in sharp contrast to the faith shown by the woman in the crowd who touched him, and recalls his question to his disciples in the storm, 'Have you no faith?' The journey of his teaching goes on now towards the critical question in 8:29, 'who do you say that I am?' Can we see and hear the prophets among us?

Dr Rosemary Canavan

## FIRST READING

Ezek 2: 2-5

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

*The people are rebellious; they shall know there will be a prophet in their midst.*

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 122. R. v. 2

**R.** Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

- To you have I lifted up my eyes, / you who dwell in the heavens: / my eyes, like the eyes of slaves / on the hand of their lords. **R.**
- Like the eyes of a servant / on the hand of her mistress, / so our eyes are on the Lord our God / till he show us mercy. **R.**
- Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. / We are filled with contempt. / Indeed all too full is our soul / with the scorn of the rich, / with the proud man's disdain. **R.**

## SECOND READING

2 Cor 12: 7-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

*I will glory in my infirmities so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.*

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord



three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Lk 4: 18

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me:  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!**