

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord;
let us acclaim the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into his
presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

Psalms 95:1-2



JANUARY 31, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GOD'S AUTHENTIC VOICE

Who speaks for God? How can we determine which are authentic, authoritative expressions of God's intentions, and which are false? Today's readings explore the question of authority in distinct ways. In Deuteronomy, Moses prepares the people of Israel for his coming death, indicating that God will raise up a new prophet to guide them. Mark describes Jesus as God's authentic voice, by the authority of his teaching and the authority he commands over an unclean spirit. In both, authority comes directly from God. Authority comes from an intimate relationship with God and with God's people. God's spokesperson is one who teaches, protects, and heals the people loved by God. As always, there is great need today for leaders in our communities who radically trust God to work through them. Let us pray that each person who performs in a role of leadership may speak for God with an authentic voice.

RESCUE FROM BONDAGE

Uniquely in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus' public ministry begins with a direct confrontation with an unclean spirit. Today's Gospel passage reflects a recurring theme in Mark, that Jesus' coming is part of a cosmic battle between God and evil forces. It was commonly believed that many spirits were present in the world, and some sought to control human beings. Mark asserts that in Jesus, God has come to rescue humanity, to free us from every form of bondage.

In today's passage, the unclean spirit does not surrender power quietly. After complaints, convulsions, and screams, the spirit finally departs. As we may witness in our own experience, that which binds us—fear, injustice, resentment—often departs only after a mighty struggle. Confronting anything “unclean” in our hearts, our institutions, or our society often involves a long journey toward freedom. May we sustain our efforts and our trust in God, during these long struggles.

PROPHETS IN DAILY LIFE

Moses assures Israel of God's continued presence by promising a new prophet. Like Moses, the prophet will be raised up directly by God. But how to distinguish a true prophet from a false one? Many claim to speak for God. The task is complicated by the fact that often, true prophets make waves, cause trouble, and disturb how things are normally done. Many simply don't want to hear what God is saying, because it threatens their privilege, comfort, or sense of identity.

Like the Israelites in today's reading, it can be hard for us to bear the voice of God. For God calls us out of all the ways we avoid opening our hearts to God and to others. And so, God raises up surprise prophets in daily life. These are all the people and events who summon us to fuller maturity in love and in faith. We are called upon to always be ready for the prophetic word that may emerge from God's surprises.

TODAY'S READINGS

Deuteronomy 18:15–20
Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7b, 7c–9
1 Corinthians 7:32–35
Mark 1:21–28

ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH

REV. DAVID J. FARRELL, PASTOR

RICK FAGAN, DEACON

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WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Spanish Mass 2:00 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES: See Mass Schedule & Intentions section of bulletin

CONFESSIONS: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FALSE PROPHETS, TRUE PROPHETS: In Deuteronomy today, we hear that God's very words will fill the mouth of a true prophet, but a false prophet will, in a manner of speaking, put mere mortal words into God's mouth. In Mark's Gospel, we see Jesus teaching and healing as a true prophet, one filled with the authority of God's own voice, the Holy One of God. The whole history of our church is filled with both true and false prophets. But in today's Gospel we learn that Jesus' fame spread because he taught with authority; he wasn't an authority because he was popular or famous. We also learn from him, in his desert temptation confrontations with Satan, that anyone can quote scripture, even against God's purposes. And today we hear that his authority was not like that of the scribes, who held the official positions of religious authority in his day. Our work is to do our best to discern the true prophets in our midst, and to be true prophets as well. The psalmist tells us how to do this: by not hardening our hearts when God speaks. If we truly listen to God, it will be God's very words filling our mouths. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS see bulletin cover.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31:20-24; Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]

Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a; Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Ps 48:2-4, 9-11; Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9; Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 23:1-6; Mk 6:30-34

Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147:1-6; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK (2/1-2/7)

Monday 8:30 AM: Brenda Spalding

Tuesday 5:30 PM: Helen Brady

Wednesday: NO MASS

Thursday 5:30 PM: Paul K. Mudd

Friday 8:30 AM (Open to anyone, no school): Bob Noe Haydon

Saturday 8:30 AM: Kyle & Danny Logsdon

Saturday 4:30 PM: Tony Begley

Sunday 8:30 AM: For the Parish

10:30 AM: Jim & Fanny Rudd

2:00 PM (Spanish Mass): Presider's Intention

LITURGICAL ROLES

* St. D School will not be in session on Friday, liturgical roles have been assigned.

Weekday Lectors: (Mon.) Betty Carol Barber, (Tues.) Julee Jones,

(Wed.) NO MASS, (Thurs.) Katie Simms, (Fri.) Mary Ann Hale,

(Sat.) Hamilton Simms

Weekday Sacristans: (Mon.) Hamilton Simms, (Tues.) Deacon Rick

Fagan, (Wed.) NO MASS, (Thurs.) Cheryl Mattingly, (Fri.) Katie Simms,

(Sat.) Belle Sutton

Weekend Liturgical Roles for the month have been sent/will be sent via email.

St. D Prayer List: Coronavirus Pandemic, Healthcare Workers, U.S. Military, Anonymous, Reco & Lucille Bishop, J.T. Osbourne, Jerry Poff, Bill Smith, David Smith, Perry Carrico, Betty Boone, Paul "Pat" Mudd, Lauraetta Smith, Tommy Bartley, Johnathan Bradshaw, Kenny Peterson, Stephanie Bueschel Warner, Kim Pinkston Spalding, Ted McNeal, Edwin Thompson, Jim Smith, Steve Smith, Beth Hellman, Dennis Rust, Margaret Faye Martin, Corbin Noel, Cassie Robinson, Olivia Montgomery, Audrey Edelen, Marilyn Watkins, Sueanna Graves, Helen Parrot, Christy Caldwell & Nancy Hardin. *Our church always prays for and cares for our sick sisters and brothers at home, in hospitals, and in nursing homes. You are always in our hearts, minds and prayers as we celebrate the Eucharist at St. Dominic. If any who are sick want to ask in faith for the church's prayers, please do not hesitate to contact our parish office at 336-3569.*

Tithing Contributions for this past week (includes contributions during the week &/or ACH contributions, etc.): \$9,604.00

MENTIONS, MEETINGS, EVENTS & REMINDERS

Lenten Disciple Bible Study: If you are interested in, or already planning on taking part in the Lenten Disciple Bible Study, please see the information that Fr. David has made available on the table in the breezeway, a form can also be picked up at the parish office. Fr. David is asking that each group sign off on one covenant form and then be turned in to the parish office. There is no minimum size to start a group. Should you have any questions &/or have not yet joined a group, please contact Linda Goodlett at linda.smith@washington.kyschools.us /859-805-0854. The first bible study will be released on Sat., Feb. 20th; more details coming in the weeks ahead.

Masses: Call ahead (**Monday through Thursday**) if you plan to attend Mass this coming weekend, space is limited due to social distancing requirements. Please contact us in one of two ways, by calling 859-336-3569 or by email at stdom@bellsouth.net. Seating charts are finalized at 2 p.m. on Thursdays.

Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction: **Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.** (after the 5:30 p.m. Mass) & on **Sundays from 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.** (Adoration 4:00 p.m., Vespers 5:00 p.m., Praise & Worship Music &/or Liturgical Prayer 5:30 p.m., Closing with Benediction 6:00 p.m.)

Looking Ahead to Ash Wednesday, February 17:

7:00 AM - Communion & Ash Service

8:30 AM - Ash Wednesday Mass *This Mass will be Live-streamed to our Church Facebook page. It will be available for viewing in the parish app and on our YouTube channel after 11:00 AM. St. D students will watch via Facebook Live from their classrooms, Fr. David & Deacon Rick will distribute ashes to the students after Mass.

NOON - Communion & Ash Service

5:30 PM - Ash Wednesday Mass

Reservations for Ash Wednesday Masses & Services will not be taken. Please wear a mask, sit in the numbered pews & social distance yourself from the person(s) at the other end of the pew.

Distribution of Ashes in Time of Pandemic - The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with holy water. Then he addresses all those present at once, saying: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ashes are then distributed to those in attendance. The ashes are sprinkled on the head of each one without saying anything. This is actually a customary way of distributing ashes in Europe and is being borrowed by many during this time of Covid19.

Volunteer Day Opportunity: Crawl Space Clean Out, Saturday, February 27th, starting at 8:00 AM, adults & high-schoolers needed. Bring your work gloves, wheel barrels, shovels, dump-trailers, and lots of energy! We will be removing dirt & debris from the crawl space beneath the church, and if needed, the lawn and landscaping may get a sprucing up too, so bring your gardening tools! Please contact the parish office if you can give of your time to help with this project (859-336-3569 or stdom@bellsouth.net).

Youth Group will meet on Tuesday, February 9th from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the church basement. We will discuss a possible Spring Break Mission Trip to the Appalachian Mountains. Hope everyone can make it, feel free to bring a friend!

Possibly interested in joining the Catholic Church? Contact Fr. David at 336-3569.