

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Grant us, Lord our God,
That we may honour you with all our mind,
And love everyone in truth of heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord
was addressed to me saying,
"Before I formed you in the womb I knew
you;
Before you came to birth I consecrated you;
I have appointed you as prophet to the
nations.
So now brace yourself for action.
Stand up and tell them
all I command you.
Do not be dismayed at their presence,
Or in their presence I will make you
dismayed.
I, for my part, today will make you
into a fortified city,
a pillar of iron,
and a wall of bronze
to confront all this land:
the kings of Judah, its princes,
its priest and the country people.
They will fight against you
but shall not overcome you,
For I am with you to deliver you –
It is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 70

Response:

My lips will tell of your help.

1. In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
Let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me:
pay heed to me and save me. (R.)
2. Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked.
(R.)
3. It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,

my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth,
from my mother's womb you have been
my help. (R.)

4. My lips will tell of your justice
And day by day of your help.
O God, you have taught me from my
youth
And I proclaim your wonders still. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13

(For shorter version read between > <)

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

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am
going to show you a way that is better than
any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of
angels, but speak without love, I am simply a
gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have
the gift of prophecy, understanding all the
mysteries there are, and knowing everything,
and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move
mountains, but without love, then I am
nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess,
piece by piece, and if I even let them take my
body to burn it, but am without love, it will do
me no good whatever.

>Love is always patient and kind: it is never
jealous; love is never boastful or conceited;
it is never rude or selfish; it does not take
offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no
pleasure in other people's sins but delights
in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to
trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there
are gifts of prophecy, the time will come
when they must fail; or the gift of languages,
it will not continue for ever; and knowledge
– for this, too, the time will come when it
must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect
and our prophesying is imperfect; but once
perfection comes, all imperfect things will
disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk
like a child, and think like a child, and argue
like a child, but now I am a man, all childish
ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing
a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall
be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I
have now is imperfect; but then I shall know
as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last:
faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these
is love.

The word of the Lord.<

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the
Lord;
no one can come to the Father except
through me. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Luke 4:21-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue,
"This text is being fulfilled today even as you
listen." And he won the approval of all, and
they were astonished by the gracious words
that came from his lips.

They said, "This is Joseph's son, surely?"
But he replied, "No doubt you will quote me
the saying, 'Physician, heal yourself' and
tell me, 'We have heard all that happened in

Capernaum, do the same here in your own
countryside.' " And he went on, "I tell you
solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his
own country.

"There were many widows in Israel, I can
assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven
remained shut for three years and six months
and a great famine raged throughout the
land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of
these; he was sent to a widow at Zarephath,
a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's
time there were many lepers in Israel, but
none of these was cured, except the Syrian,
Naaman."

When they heard this everyone in the
synagogue was enraged. They sprang to
their feet and hustled him out of the town;
and they took him up to the brow of the hill
their town was built on, intending to throw
him down the cliff, but he slipped through the
crowd and walked away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;**

**through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

(all bow during the next three lines)

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.**

**I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your merciful love.

**O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I
call on you.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these redeeming gifts,

we pray, O Lord,

that through this help to eternal salvation
true faith may ever increase.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?

(LUKE 4:21-30)



Luke presents Jesus as a prophet, a figure familiar in the history of Israel. In the episode which occurs in the synagogue in Nazareth, Jesus sets his ministry in the line of that of Elijah, the chief representative of the prophetic tradition, and that of Elijah's disciple and successor, Elisha.

We are told that his ministry in the synagogues in Galilee had won him approval, but his appearance in that of his home town results in an enraged crowd attempting to throw him off a cliff.

What sparked off this attempted lynching was Jesus' reminding his audience that the people to whom Elijah and Elisha directed their preaching and their care through miracles included Gentiles. This idea that God's message could be meant also for people beyond the geographical and spiritual boundaries of Israel touched a raw nerve and caused great offence. There is little, if any, evidence, that the preaching of the biblical prophets was accepted or acted upon, so, at Nazareth, Jesus suffered the fate of his predecessors. The accepting or rejecting of the word of Jesus will be a theme running through Luke's version of the Gospel narrative.

Two of the issues which occur in this section form part of the message of Simeon when that holy person tells Mary and Joseph that Jesus will be "a light to enlighten the Gentiles" and "a sign destined to be rejected". The universal message of God's salvation being for people who are poor and oppressed, irrespective of nation or religion, is what the citizens of Nazareth and others throughout the Gospel cannot stomach, and so they kick out the messenger. The division between those who accept and those who reject Jesus has begun. ■

REFLECT

Prophets are uncomfortable people. They point out what is wrong in society and the church. The rest of us are then asked to make a decision: whether or not to accept what they say and then to do something about the situation. This can be on a grand or national scale, where the prophet is speaking truth to power, or the person

can be involved in a more local and personal setting, such as the local parish or community. Here it is easy to dismiss such a person in much the same way as the inhabitants of Nazareth seem inclined to do to Jesus, thinking that they fully know him as (only) the son of Joseph. If we are in a position of authority, we may be inclined to say, "Well, if only she or

SAY

I am with you to deliver you.

LEARN

The biblical prophet is one who speaks the word of the Lord.

The link between social justice and proper worship is clear from the prophets' teaching.

Elijah is the figure who personifies the prophetic tradition in the Bible.

Joseph is the 'legal' father of Jesus.

DO

Look at the different places of worship in your area. How do you think the Lord is present in them? Does this make you glad or uncomfortable?

he knew the full facts..." and so reassure ourselves that we need not listen to the truth of what the person is saying.

There also used to be a certain attitude that outside the church there is no salvation. We might remember that Jesus' words apply just as much to Christians today as to the people of his time. ■