

[96] **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME** **B**

FIRST READING

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

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel

2:2-5

As the Lord spoke,
his Spirit gave me the power to stand,
and I heard him say:

“You are a mere human,
but I am sending you to the people of Israel.
All of them have rebelled against me,
and they are still rebelling,
just as their ancestors did.
They are stubborn and hardheaded.

“But I am the Lord God,
and I am sending you to speak to them in my name.
They are stubborn.
So maybe they will listen
and maybe they won’t.
But at least they will know that a prophet has come to them.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

86:5-6, 15 and 16de

R. (5a) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

You willingly forgive,
and your love is always there
for those who pray to you.
Please listen, Lord!
Answer my prayer for help.

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

You, the Lord God,
are kind and merciful.

You don't easily get angry,
and your love
can always be trusted.
Look on me with kindness.
Make me strong and save me.

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

SECOND READING

I will boast in my weaknesses,
so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

12:7-10

Brothers and sisters:

I am now referring to the wonderful things I saw.

One of Satan's angels was sent to make me suffer terribly,
so that I would not feel too proud.

Three times I begged the Lord to make this suffering go away.
But he replied, "My kindness is all you need.
My power is strongest when you are weak."

So if Christ keeps giving me his power,
I will gladly brag about how weak I am.
Yes, I am glad to be weak or insulted or mistreated
or to have troubles and sufferings,
if it is for Christ.
Because when I am weak, I am strong.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

See Luke 4:18

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord now upon me
has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

I am gentle and humble of heart.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

6:1-6

Jesus left and returned to his hometown with his disciples.
The next Sabbath he taught in the Jewish meeting place.

Many of the people who heard him were amazed and asked,
“How can he do all this?
Where did he get such wisdom and the power to work these miracles?
Isn’t he the carpenter, the son of Mary?
Aren’t James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon his brothers?
Don’t his sisters still live here in our town?”

The people were very unhappy because of what he was doing.
But Jesus said, “Prophets are honored by everyone,
except the people of their hometown
and their relatives and their own family.”

Jesus could not work any miracles there,
except to heal a few sick people by placing his hands on them.
He was surprised that the people did not have any faith.

The gospel of the Lord.

Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Prayer: Dear Jesus, the sun brings us light and warm days. We are happy soaking up the light and warmth. Help us soak up your love too. Thank you for being our friend and Savior. AMEN.

Readings: Ezekiel 2:2-5; Ps 123:1-4; 2 Cor 12:7-10; Mark 6:1-6

The Ezekiel reading reminds us of the Spirit. Remember how we talked about the Spirit in our life on other Sundays? Pentecost? Trinity Sunday? (Draw on what you shared with the children on those Sundays.) This short reading reminds us: Because we believe in God's Spirit, have God's Spirit through our Baptism, we, too are called to speak the truth and follow in God's ways. Ezekiel uses the expression: "Set me on my feet..." This is the link to the Gospel. The Gospel tells us that Jesus went to his home town and on the sabbath, like our Sunday, he too went to pray. People who listened to Jesus talk about the Scriptures, like Father (a parish priest's name), were surprised Jesus was so smart. He really understood the meaning of the Scriptures.

But they started saying things like: Who does he think he is? They couldn't hear the truth of his teachings. They thought: We know who he is—why listen to him! Jesus was surprised, that his own people would not listen to him. But Jesus stood on his own feet—like Ezekiel. That is what Jesus challenged his people to do—but they dismissed him—wouldn't listen or believe. When they wouldn't listen, Jesus could offer them no truth or healing. Do we listen and believe?

The second reading reminds us that we all have weaknesses and that we need the power of God's Spirit to "Stand on our feet" and do the right, the good, the loving deed. It is God's Spirit that helps us walk in the way of God and be followers of Jesus. When we listen and believe: We can "walk" in Jesus' footsteps.

Activities: If the group is small have the children trace their footprints—if the group is large either make a set of feet for each child or just draw one footprint. (They can trace the outline of one another's feet.)

Try to help the children to share times that it is important to "Stand on our feet" and do the right thing. Jesus wants us to obey our parents. At times, we find it hard. Be if we "stand" with Jesus we will do the right thing! Some times we are tempted to talk about others – gossiping or lying about what really happened. But we need to "stand" in the truth.

To conclude the session: Place the feet, side-by-side in a circle. Hold hands. Take one foot forward, and place it on one of the traced feet. Say this or a similar prayer: "Jesus, with your Spirit we can take steps in the right direction." Take another step, now you are standing on the footprints. Say this or a similar prayer: "Jesus, we want to follow you with both our feet, our hearts and our minds. With the help of your Spirit this week, we believe we can walk in your footsteps." If you have time: Ask each child: (Name) will you follow Jesus this week?

Have the child say: Yes, I will follow Jesus. Then the group adds: "We all will follow Jesus."

Continue around the circle mentioning each child's name.

Have the children take the footprints home to remind them to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.