

ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

14th Sunday in
Ordinary Time, B
July 4, 2021

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Fr. George "of the desert" Decasa
Pastor

1st Reading:
Ezekiel 2:2-5

As the LORD spoke to me, the spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me: Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have revolted against me to this very day. Hard of face and obstinate of heart are they to whom I am sending you. But you shall say to them: Thus says the LORD GOD! And whether they heed or resist—for they are a rebellious house—they shall know that a prophet has been among them.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

“Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.”

To you I lift up my eyes who are enthroned in heaven — as the eyes of servants are on the hands of their masters.

R.
As the eyes of a maid are on the hands of her mistress, so are our eyes on the Lord, our God, till he have pity on us.

R.
Have pity on us, O Lord, have pity on us, for we are more than sated with contempt; our souls are more than sated with the mockery of the arrogant, with the contempt of the proud. **R.**

SATURDAYS:

3:15 pm to 4:15 pm – Holy Hour
3:45 pm to 4:15 pm – Confessions
4:30 pm – HOLY MASS

SUNDAYS:

7:15 am to 8:15 am – Holy Hour
7:45 am to 8:15 am – Confessions
8:30 am – HOLY MASS

2nd Reading:
2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Brothers and sisters: That I, Paul, might not become too elated, because of the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

The Word of the Lord.

Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia. All: Alleluia, Alleluia.

Lector: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

All: Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel Reading:
Mark 6:1-6

Jesus departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples. When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands! Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house.” So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Mystery of Faith:
Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Celebrant: We know that God can do what we cannot, and so we call to mind our needs and the needs of the world.

Lector:

- 1) That the prophetic voice of the Church never cease to proclaim the saving cross of Christ, let us pray . . .
- 2) That leaders in this country and around the globe, acknowledge their own inadequacies and look to God for strength and wisdom, let us pray . . .
- 3) That our nation, celebrating Independence Day, live the Christian ideals on which it was founded and remember our dependence on God, let us pray . . .
- 4) That those who travel this summer find rest and refreshment and return safely home, let us pray . . .
- 5) That the Lord will bring healing to the sick or suffering, comfort to the dying, conversion to sinners, and light to those experiencing darkness, let us pray . . .
- 6) For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray . . .

Celebrant:

Merciful God, may the Holy Spirit work through us to continually make these ideals real in our relationships with each other within and across borders. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Happy Independence Day!



REFLECTING ON THE WORD . . . GUIDEPOSTS

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

When we gather together as a faith community to give glory to God, we expect that our experience will be similar to what it was the week before, or the week before that. Most likely this is how the faithful of Nazareth felt when they went to the synagogue. Then one day, Jesus, son of Mary, a carpenter whom some may have known when he was just a boy, stood up to preach. Unlike the crowd in today's Gospel, may we be open to the Word of God entering in unexpected ways.

JUST WHO ARE PROPHETS AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

A prophet is first of all one in whom the Spirit of God enters in order to convey God's word to the people; he is one who is possessed by the Holy Spirit. Thus, Ezekiel was a prophet because God's Spirit entered into him and used him to speak to the people.

We Christians are a prophetic people because the Spirit of the Risen Lord Jesus entered into each one of us at our baptism. And while all Christians are called to be prophets – to speak God's truth – priests are especially ordained to speak the Word of God.

As a prophet, Jesus went to his hometown of Nazareth to proclaim repentance even if he knew people there would not accept him. The disciples could have said: "Lord, why go there? Why not remain in Capernaum where people love you, where people see you as a superstar. It's much easier for all of us to remain here. And Jesus would have answered: "I'm not a politician. I am a prophet. I go not where people want me but, most importantly, where God wants me to go; and what I say to people is not based on what they want to hear but what God's message is which may not be what people want to hear."

The Difficulty of Being A Prophet

The life of a prophet is not easy. Prophecy demands one go against the flow. Ezekiel had an especially difficult task. In his day king and people were putting all their trust in an alliance with Egypt. They imagined this alliance would win them freedom from oppression. From God's viewpoint this was idolatry. God sends Ezekiel to preach the truth and thus awaken Israel to the only reliable source of security: devotion to God.

God cautions Ezekiel that as a prophet he would not have an easy job of it. This rebellious people can choose to listen or not to Ezekiel's word of life. Either way they will one day know that what this prophet said was absolutely true because it came from God.

Jesus faced an equally stubborn people in his fellow Nazarenes who could not see below the surface.

All they saw was Mary's son, the carpenter, one of the townsfolk, no one special. To them, Jesus was too ordinary, too familiar. "Familiarity breeds contempt?" They took him for granted and Jesus' words could not penetrate their hearts.

The attitude of Jesus' fellow townsmen could be ours. For instance, there is the danger that we take our religion for granted. The Sunday Mass going, the prayers can become so routinary and mechanical that their meaning and value become insipid. Or, in church we hear the scriptural passages many times, we become so familiar with the discourses, parables and miracles of Jesus that we run the risk of failing to appreciate them.

If you want to appreciate God's Word and the Mass, one way is to take extra effort to do so. You must listen, reflect on the readings and apply the lessons in your own life, thus bear fruit a hundredfold.

Recall how the profligate Augustine turned over a new leaf after so many misadventures during his reckless years. It was when he got sick and alone that he heard a voice which said: "Take and read." He picked up a book which turned out to be the Bible. Opening it, his eyes fell on a passage of the Letter to the Romans, which hit him like a thunderbolt:

"Now is the hour to wake up from sleep. Let us stop doing the things that belong to the dark....Let us conduct ourselves properly, as people who live in the light of day; no orgies or drunkenness, no immorality or indecency, no fighting or jealousy...Stop giving attention to your sinful nature, to satisfy its desires" (Chapter 13:11-14)."

The words were so limpid, so striking that Augustine thought they were addressed to him personally. He could only break down in tears thinking of all his failures and wrongdoings. That became the turning point in Augustine's life. He lived the rest of his life in total surrender to God. He became one of the great pillars of our faith — the great St. Augustine of Hippo.

In today's first reading God says to Ezekiel: "Whether they heed or resist they shall know that a prophet has been among them" (Ez 2:5). In other words, it is not the responsibility of the prophet that his words are accepted by people or not as that responsibility is God's. It is God who touches the hearts of

people. It is he who converts them, in his own time. Paul expresses this reality thus: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gives the growth" (1 Cor 3:6).

Moreover, the great responsibility of the prophet is to see to it that what he preaches is not his own message but God's. He must subject his human thoughts to God's purification of them so that it is God's will that comes out. Otherwise, he could be preaching his own ideas, not God's. Paul expresses his consciousness of this reality thus: "When I am powerless, it is then that I am strong." (2 Cor 12:10), that is to say, Paul realizes that his awareness of his weakness, of his utter dependence on God, makes the grace of God show itself most strongly, that the power of God manifests itself most clearly in overcoming difficulty, not in being easily successful.

How do we come to know God's will so that the words that we preach are prophetic? The answer: Aim for mystical experience, the experience of God's real or existential presence in your life. To achieve this, we constantly need **prayer** characterized by silent reflection and meditation and capped by a regular visit to the Blessed Sacrament for a person to person conversation with the Risen Lord and contemplation of his presence; we need the **sacraments** (especially the Eucharist); and **service to others**.

St. Thomas Indian Mission will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2022.

We would like to plan some events to celebrate as well as to generate some funds for the Church.

We will be having a meeting July 25, 2021 (Sunday), in the Church, right after Mass.

We are encouraging you to come to the meeting, hear the ideas we have and share your ideas. We need help in all areas of the events, so we are asking you all to get involved and help make our 100th Year Celebration a great success.

If you can't attend the meeting but you're interested in helping, please put your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet located at the entrance. We will make sure to contact you.

In the diocese of San Diego the dispensation from the normal obligation to attend Sunday Mass ended last July first.

RETURN TO SUNDAY MASS NOW.



June 26-27 Sunday Collections	\$ 536.00
Via Online: June 22 to June 29	\$ 230.00
Peter's Pence	\$ 523.00
Father's Day Novena.....	\$ 415.00

Let us sing the following hymns at our Masses this weekend:

Entrance: **596** — Glory and Praise to Our God
 Holy Communion: **815** — I Received the Living God.
 Recessional: **God Bless America**

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

FOR OUR NATION'S INDEPENDENCE

God our Father,/ your Son Jesus spoke to us a message of peace/ and taught us to live as brothers and sisters./ His message took form in the vision of our Founding Fathers,/ as they fashioned a nation where all people might live as one./ This message lives on in our midst/ as a task for us today and a promise for tomorrow./

We thank you, Father, for your blessings in the past,/ and for all that, with your help, we must yet achieve./ Bless our nation and bless each of us./ As we thank you for our independence,/ may we extend its blessings to our youngest brothers and sisters,/ the children in the womb./ Hasten the day when our nation will be a nation with liberty and justice,/ not just for some, but for all,/ through Christ our Lord. Amen./

God Bless America

God bless America, land that I love
 Stand beside her and guide her
 Through the night with the light from above
 From the mountains to the prairies
 To the oceans white with foam
 God bless America, my home sweet home
 God bless America, land that I love
 Stand beside her and guide her
 Through the night with the light from above
 From the mountains to the prairies
 To the oceans white with foam
 God bless America, my home sweet home
 From the mountains to the prairies
 To the oceans white with foam
 God bless America, my home sweet home
 God bless America, my home sweet home.



In a class reunion, three long-lost friends were comparing personal experiences. "In our town," said the first, "people fondly call me 'Monsignor' because I part-time as a lay eucharistic minister."

The second said: "Well, I run a business but I'm an active leader of a charismatic prayer group. I give spiritual conferences; so everybody fondly calls me 'Cardinal'."

It was the turn of the third classmate, who has been intently listening, to speak: "In my case, I'm just a plain sales representative but many call me God." Perplexed, his two friends curiously replied: "Why? How come?"

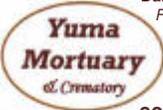
"You see, when I knock at my customers' houses, they open the door and exclaim, "My God, you again?"

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