



USCCaruso  
Catholic Center

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Family Prayer Service

**Presider:** In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Let us acknowledge the times which we have not been faithful to God.

Penitential Rite A

**All:** I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
(striking your breast, say:)  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
(Then continue with:)  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**Opening Prayer:**

**Presider:**

Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honor 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.

**All: Amen**

**A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy:**

*Deuteronomy 18:15-20*

Moses spoke to all the people, saying:

“A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin; to him you shall listen. This is exactly what you requested of the LORD, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let us not again hear the voice of the LORD, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.’ And the LORD said to me, ‘This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him. Whoever will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.’”

The Word of the Lord

## **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 (8)*

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

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.

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us. For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works."

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

## **A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians:**

*1 Corinthians 7:32-35*

Brothers and sisters:

I should like you to be free of anxieties. An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord. But a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided. An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. A married woman, on the other hand, is anxious about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. I am telling you this for your own benefit, not to impose a restraint upon you, but for the sake of propriety and adherence to the Lord without distraction.

The Word of the Lord

## Alleluia

*Matthew 4:16*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light; on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Mark:

*Mark 1:21-28*

Then they came to Capernaum, and on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:**  
**by Fr. Joe Kim OFM, Conv.**

In our gospel today, the people of Capernaum were astonished at the teaching of Jesus – why? Jesus taught with **authority**: “A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.” I’m sure you’ve heard this gospel before, but did you grasp the powerful reflection and challenge it invites us to? There is a beautiful truth that is revealed from the beginning of creation to the time of Jesus, to the present day, and far into the future: When God speaks, he speaks truth and this truth always comes to fulfillment without fail! God speaks, and the world is created. When we have lost our way, God raises up prophets to speak His words of faithfulness and love to us. When He speaks, “Be made clean,” “Be made whole,” “Be healed” - we are healed. When he speaks, “Your sins are forgiven,” we are reconciled to God and one another. Why are we amazed by this? Why does this surprise us as if this is new? As if this isn’t what is and always will be? What is the normal, the ordinary? Why do we doubt the words of love, peace, joy, forgiveness, and LIFE? It’s actually appalling considering even evil spirits hear and obey the commands of our Lord! Why do we hear and disobey? Why do we doubt? Perhaps we allow the lies and brokenness of this world, culture, and society to be the truth that we regard as real. Instead of recognizing and obeying the voice of the Lord, we allow the voices and false messages of false prophets of this world to be the reality of lives. “You are not good enough!,” “not pretty enough,” “have enough,” simply not enough for you, for others, even for God! My sisters and brothers – even the evil spirits recognize the truth and obey our Lord...will you? As our psalm instructs us to pray: “If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts!”

**By what truth do you live your life? By what truth do you make your choices?**

**Have you honestly stopped and considered the way in which you regard the voice of the Lord? Do you recognize it as truth? Or as something else, some lesser than your culture or that of the society in which you live?**

**Have you hardened your heart to the voice of the Lord in your life? What is hard to hear? What do you choose not to hear and believe? Will you open your hearts and lives and strive to listen and obey?**

**Nicene Creed:**

**ALL:** 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,

(bow)

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

(raise from bow)

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

**Presider:** To God, the Source of life and Author of holiness, let us pray:

**Intercessions:**

For our Church and parish community, that we may be constantly attentive to the voice of God:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

For the bishops, priests, deacons, and ministers of the Church, that they may truly speak the “words” of God:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

For the leaders of nations and officers of governments, that they may lead others by the authority of their own dedication and commitment to the justice and wisdom of God:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

For families and households, that God’s spirit of love may dwell in their midst:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

For the sick, the suffering, the troubled, and the dying, that they may know, in their anguish, the presence of Christ the Healer:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

For all who have died in the peace of Christ, that they may live anew in the light and mercy of God:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

**Presider:**

Create us anew, O God, in the life of the Holy One you sent to redeem us. Cast out of the hearts and minds the “unclean spirits” of hatred, prejudice, and greed that lead us away from you, and instill within us your Spirit of compassion and mercy. Grant these prayers we make to you in the name of your Son, Our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Our Father:**

**Presider:** At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All:**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

Amen

**Sign of Peace:**

**Presider:** Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen

**Presider:**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All:**

And with your spirit.

**Presider:**

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(At this time please offer a moment of silence before the Spiritual Communion is said.)

**Spiritual Communion:**

**All:** I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints.

**Closing Prayer:**

**Presider:**

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.

**All:** Amen