

INTRO - 4th Sunday of Ordinary – Today we hear about prophets

The role of the prophet – it makes me ask – why can't we be prophets?

Why can't we be prophetic?

A prophet is someone so close to God that they can be His spokesperson

Why can't that be us? IT CAN BE – Scripture has lots to teach us today **LUP**

JER (explain role of Jer – when – why –

This is God's call of JER and it includes a promise as well READ IT

2 points are laid out here for JER (and for us)

1. Before he was made God knew him (us too)

2. His job was not going to be easy – but he's not in this alone (us too)

- Don't be crushed by the opposition (there will be opposition)

- Promise “I've made you a fortified city, a pillar of iron, wall of brass”

There will be those that fight against you BUT WILL NOT PREVAIL

FOR I AM WITH YOU (us too)

Thus PS71 “I will sing of your salvation” READ IT

This is a testimony of God's faithfulness to us -

In you I take refuge In your justice rescue me Deliver me Save me

Be my rock of refuge a stronghold my rock my fortress

You are my hope my trust you are my strength

From my youth to the present, I proclaim Your wondrous deeds

Like JER – we are chosen, set apart, His beloved

Our relationship with God is rooted in love and **1Cor13** is all about that

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things

READ IT

GOSPEL

Today's gospel is an extension of last Sunday

Jesus comes home to Nazareth, to the synagogue where he grew up

He reads Is. – All were Amazed –

But then - Isn't this Joseph's son? They knew Him, He was one of them

Why don't you do a miracle here like in Capernaum?

He gives them examples of prophets who healed foreigners, not them

And we see another dimension of a prophet's life – persecution.

JER was condemned for calling Israel to repent (sin was enjoyable)

MLK was condemned for calling USA to repent of racism

JtheB was killed and so was JC

We all share the call to witness to our faith – but with it comes rejection by the world

But remember how the 1st reading ended

They will fight against you but not prevail over you, for I am with you to deliver you

WE ARE NOT ALONE –