

We Respond

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 94)

ANTIPHON: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

RESPONSE: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

LECTOR: Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

LECTOR: Come in; let us kneel and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

LECTOR: O that today you would listen to his voice! "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work." **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) 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.

Or

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

TODAY'S READINGS Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1: 21-28

NEXT WEEK (5th Sunday, Year B) Job 7: 1-4, 6-7; 1; Psalm 146; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1: 29-39

*Brighten up
your day with
The Majellan*

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*Trust in the
truth*



31 January 2021 4th Sunday Year B

It is not unusual to suggest that people have been 'economical with the truth'. Generally, this is a kind way of suggesting that they have been embellishing a story or telling a 'white lie' to avoid giving offence.

However, in this new age of tweeting on social media, in some circles the truth seems to have become a rare commodity. If lying becomes commonplace it certainly damages trust and inevitably human relations become strained and societies become divided. Of course, there is always the temptation to conclude that we are seeing a deterioration in behaviour by comparison with a bygone era and there is no doubt that duplicity and deceit have been part and parcel of the human story from the very beginning.

This Sunday the Church invites us to reflect on how Moses reassured his people that God would raise up a prophet like himself, to whom they must listen and whom they could trust. There is also a warning for those prophets who choose to go their own way. They will not prosper. The Old Testament is littered with the stories of such prophets who tried to mislead the people for their own ends.

Ultimately, there is no doubt that Moses is pointing us towards the coming of Jesus. At the beginning of his gospel, Mark is determined that we should get the connection by establishing the authority

of Jesus, who acts and speaks in a manner that clearly the people had not been used to. Jesus makes a deep impression on them precisely because he teaches 'with authority'. He speaks the truth.

The battle between good and evil is going to be waged and it is the man who possesses the spirit of evil who identifies Jesus of Nazareth as "the Holy One of God". This is the truth that Mark wishes to establish in our minds right from the outset and everything that follows is designed to reinforce that message. In our age, as in every age, we are caught up in the great struggle between good and evil.

At the same time, the recurring theme is that Christ, in his passion, death and glorious resurrection, has conquered and that his victory is our victory if we allow his Spirit to dwell within us. By the time John is writing his gospel, after a lifetime of meditating on this mystery, repeatedly he returns to the notion of truth. At the Last Supper he recalls that Jesus points out to Thomas that he is "the way, the truth and the life", having previously taught those who took his word to heart: "you will learn the truth and the truth will make you free."

In an age of fake news, we will do well to ensure that we always speak the truth and then we can enjoy the freedom that follows.

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