



31 JANUARY 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus taught with authority, not only because he is God but because his words were always accompanied by his deeds. As Christians, we too can teach with authority if we live our lives as witnesses of Christ through our words and actions, through love and service. Let us pray during this Eucharist that our witness to the Gospel may preserve and strengthen the gift of faith for future generations.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS:

In the first reading, we see that Moses was a prophet who spoke God's word with authority. In our lives, our hearts may restrain us from following the truth whole heartedly. The Psalmist today challenges us to be faithful disciples of Christ by listening to him and giving him our undivided attention. From the Gospel, we know that Jesus is the One God who rises up with authority; he is not just a prophet but the "Holy One of God" among them and us. Jesus reveals God's very presence and life.

READINGS:

First Reading: Deut 18:15-20

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 95:1-2,6-7abc,7d-9

Second Reading: 1 Cor 7:32-35

Gospel: Mk1:21b-28

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: As faithful disciples of Christ and joyful witnesses to the Gospel, let us place our prayers before our Heavenly Father.

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Pope Francis, the bishops, the clergy, the religious and all the members of the Church that we may continue to proclaim with authority the values of the Gospel through our words and actions; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For all the people in the world yearning for physical, emotional and mental healing, that they may be freed of their fears and anxieties and healed through God's mercy and compassion; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For all those affected by the Covid19 pandemic especially those who have lost their loved ones, that they may find strength in the Lord's presence and kindness and empathy from the people around them; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For all of us gathered here and those hearing online Eucharist, that as faithful witnesses of Christ, we may be empowered to live our lives according to God's will; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

Celebrant: God our loving Father, hear these prayers that we have placed before you and help us to follow the teachings of your Son, Jesus in all we say and do. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONA VIRUS

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Commission For Liturgy
Archdiocese of Bombay*