

# Liturgy Alive of 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

## Greeting

Jesus spoke to people  
the Good News of healing and life.  
He speaks this same Good News to us  
here in this assembly.  
May his words stir our hearts  
and bring us healing and life.  
May the Lord Jesus be always with you.

*R/ And also with you.*

### Introduction by the Celebrant

#### A. Here Is a Teaching That Is New (Option 1)

When priests or teachers speak to you about our faith as if they are reciting a lesson learned by heart, you will probably pay little attention. But when you feel personally addressed, if they speak from their own experience that shows that they deeply believe in what they say, you are eager to listen. That is the way Jesus speaks to us today. He addresses each of us with the force of his own life behind his words. We open our ears and hearts to him.

#### B. Jesus' Healing Words and Hands (Option 2)

Sick people feel very much how they are handicapped by their illness. There are things they want to do but can't; it is as if they are not fully human. We see this most strongly in the mentally handicapped. Today we see Jesus at work with his healing power. Not that he heals everyone who is sick, but he shows that God wants people to be whole and wholesome - that is what "healing" means. He wants us to become like him, that is, completely human, good and whole persons, not only physically but in every way. For it is then that we can fully honor God as his image. Let us ask Jesus in this eucharist to make us whole and

wholesome.

### Penitential Act

#### A. Here Is a Teaching That Is New (Option 1)

Let us ask the Lord to forgive us  
for having paid too little attention  
when he spoke his word to us.  
*(PAUSE)*  
Lord Jesus, you speak to us.  
Speak to our hearts  
and let your word liberate us:  
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*  
Jesus Christ, you speak to us.  
Let your words make a deep impression on us  
and give us the courage to change:  
Christ, have mercy. *R/ Christ, have mercy.*  
Lord Jesus, you speak to us.  
Let your word move us  
to become more and more like you.  
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

Have mercy on us, Lord,  
and drive out from us the evil of sin.  
Fill us with your light and strength  
and lead us to everlasting life. *R/ Amen.*

#### B. Jesus' Healing Words and Hands (Option 2)

Sin is too often the disease of our heart.  
We ask the Lord to heal us from all sin.  
*(PAUSE)*  
Lord Jesus, you came to heal us  
and to restore us to life:  
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*  
Jesus Christ, firstborn from the dead,  
you have made us sons and daughters of the living God:  
Christ, have mercy. *R/ Christ, have mercy.*  
Lord Jesus, you made yourself one of us  
so that we could see in you  
the perfect image of the Father:  
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

Have mercy on us, Lord,  
and only say the word  
by which you heal us from sin.

Lead us to everlasting life. *R/ Amen.*

### Opening Prayer

#### A. Here Is a Teaching That Is New (Option 1)

Let us pray that the Word of God  
may keep resounding in the world  
(PAUSE)  
God our Father,  
you have spoken to us in our brother,  
your Son Jesus Christ,  
your Word that endures for all ages.  
He lived as he spoke, and so his message  
became flesh and blood and was reliable.  
Give us in our day men and women  
of vision and integrity  
who speak in your name with authority  
and who can translate this message for us  
in a language we can understand.  
Let their voices give direction to our lives  
and stir us up to bear witness to your kingdom  
of community and serving love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

#### B. Jesus' Healing Words and Hands (Option 2)

Let us pray to God  
that he may bring us healing and salvation  
(PAUSE)  
All-loving and faithful God,  
in your Son Jesus Christ you have shown us  
what it means to be fully human  
and you let him bring to all who receive him  
the healing of forgiveness and life.  
Let him touch us with his saving hand,  
let him speak to us his restoring word,  
that he may make us whole and free  
and that with him we may fight all evil  
and serve you, our living God,  
and the people you have entrusted to us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. *Amen.*

### Liturgy of the Word

#### First Reading Introduction: The True Prophet Is God's Voice

To God's people prophets were - and still are - the mouthpiece of God. They interpret his will with authority and direct the people toward God's future.

## Second Reading Introduction: [Free for the Lord](#)

All are called to holiness; (Paul stresses the advantages of the charism of celibacy:) those who are not married are free to devote themselves to the Lord and his affairs.

#### Gospel Introduction: Jesus Taught with Authority

Jesus could teach with authority like no one else, for he was the living Word of God, God's own Son. By the power of his word alone he overcame the power of evil.

## General Intercessions

#### A. Here Is a Teaching That Is New (Option 1)

In these confusing times let us pray to our reliable God for men and women who can speak his word to us with the assurance and authority of faith. Let us say:  
**R/ Speak, Lord, your servants listen.**

- For the leaders of the Church, that they may receive God's word with humility and pass it on to us and to the world without fear or compromise, we pray: **R/ Speak, Lord, your servants listen.**
- For those who remain unmarried for the sake of the kingdom of God, for priests and religious, that their undivided love of God may open their hearts to all people and all needs, we pray: **R/ Speak, Lord, your servants listen.**
- For those who speak in the name of people without voice or rights, that they may not be silenced by the mighty and that they may stimulate us to give all their due and even more, we pray: **R/ Speak, Lord, your servants listen.**
- For those to whom God's word is spoken, especially for those receiving religious formation, for couples to be married, of parents preparing for the baptism of their children, for those attending retreats and renewal sessions, that they may freely accept the word of God, we pray: **R/ Speak, Lord, your servants listen.**
- For all of us here, that the eucharist may give us the openness to receive with eagerness and joy and great simplicity the word of God as it comes to us, also when it upsets and demands, we pray: **R/ Speak, Lord, your servants listen.**

Lord our God, make us indeed attentive to your word and let it become alive in us by the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

#### B. Jesus' Healing Words and Hands (Option 2)

Let us pray to God who gives us healing and salvation. Let us say:  
**R/ Lord, speak your healing word.**

- That in the Church we may bring to each other the healing of forgiveness and compassion, let us pray: **R/ Lord, speak your healing word.**
- That all who are ill may keep hoping that they will be cured and may at least bear their suffering in patience, let us pray: **R/ Lord, speak your healing word.**
- That all who suffer at a young age may experience the love and attention of people who care for them, let us pray: **R/ Lord, speak your healing word.**
- That we may have room and concern for the mentally handicapped and that we may give them a place in our heart, let us pray: **R/ Lord, speak your healing word.**
- That all those in hospitals and nursing homes may be given much human, loving care and be visited by those dear to them, let us pray: **R/ Lord, speak your healing word.**

- That in our communities we may dare to lighten one another's suffering and learn to share each other's pain, let us pray: **R/ Lord, speak your healing word.**

Compassionate God, we know that you love us in sickness and in health. Be always with us and help us attend to one another, in Christ Jesus our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

#### **Prayer over the Gifts**

God, as we bring before you  
these gifts of bread and wine,  
let your Son speak to you in our name.  
Accept through him our silence  
and our meager efforts to give shape to your word  
in the language of our lives.  
Let this offering please you

on account of Jesus Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

#### **Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer**

Let us give wholehearted thanks to the Father, for he has given us Jesus who died and rose from the dead to set us free from all evil.

#### **Invitation to the Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray to God our Father  
in the words of prayer of Jesus himself,

who can give voice to all our unspoken requests: *R/ Our Father...*

#### **Deliver Us**

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil  
and grant us peace in our day.  
In your mercy, keep us from being deaf  
to the words you speak to us.  
Let their sound convert us  
and inspire us to prepare with joy and hope  
the full coming among us

of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *R/ For the kingdom...*

#### **Prayer for Peace**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
let the star of your peace rise today  
on the body of the Church  
and on all who believe in you.  
In its light, may we learn  
to love and to serve one another  
and to share the joy of your peace  
with all willing to accept it.

now and for ever. *R/ Amen.*

#### **Invitation to Communion**

This is Jesus the Lord,

who taught a message of good news  
with power and authority.  
Happy are we to hear his invitation  
and to receive from him

our bread of healing and strength. *R/ Lord, I am not worthy...*

#### Prayer after Communion

Lord our God, in this assembly

you have brought us more closely together  
by your mighty word  
and the festive table of the eucharist.  
As we return to everyday life,  
keep speaking your liberating message  
even in the commonplace events of life  
and in the friendship of our brothers and sisters.  
Open our ears and hearts  
to your ever-new language  
and let it lead us to you

by the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

#### Blessing

We know from life's experience

how powerful words can be.  
At their marriage, husband and wife  
accept each other's Yes to love  
and they also give love to one another,  
not just for a moment but for a lifetime.  
Christ has spoken his word to us here.  
It was a word of trust and love,  
and it cannot leave us indifferent.  
Christ makes us face a decision:  
either to reject him and his word  
or to give ourselves to him and his message.  
May we accept his gospel wholeheartedly  
with the blessing of almighty God:

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *R/ Amen.*

Go and let God's word come alive in you. *R/ Thanks be to God.*