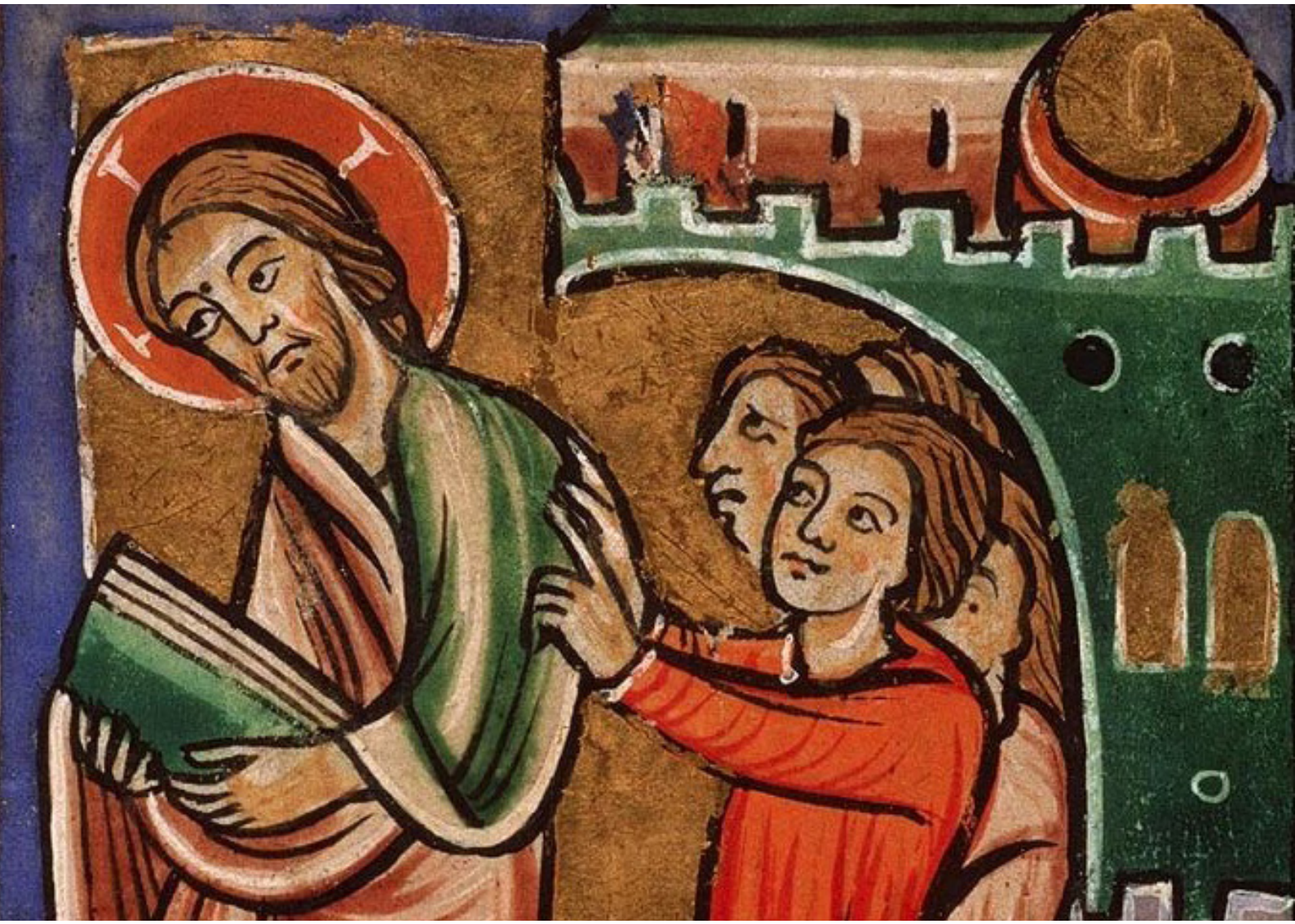

CELEBRATING AT HOME

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

True faith - seeing the sacred everywhere (Mk 6:1-6)

CELEBRATING AT HOME
14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord is here, present among us.
We are gathered with the whole Church in this moment of prayer.

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,
you choose us to be your own.

Lord Jesus,
you heal us with forgiveness.

Lord Jesus,
you nourish us with the word of life.

Scripture Reading *(Mark 6:1-6)*

Going from that district, he went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, "Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?" And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is only despised in his own country, among his own relations and in his own house"; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Reflection - *True faith - seeing the sacred everywhere*

Traditionally, the prophets in the Bible had a pretty tough time. Many experienced rejection and persecution and even death. The first reading tells part of the story of Ezekiel's call to be a prophet.

Common to all the prophets is the conviction that the Word of the Lord must be spoken to the people 'whether they listen or not' - the prophet must remain faithful to his vocation even if it costs him his life.

In the Gospels Jesus is presented as the prophet *par excellence*. In this Sunday's Gospel we find Jesus in his home town, Nazareth, teaching in the synagogue - faithfully fulfilling his mission to proclaim the Good News. As for many other prophets, that proclamation will eventually cost him his life. Like the other prophets, Jesus, too, experiences rejection. At first the people marvel at Jesus' teaching and the miracles he has worked elsewhere, but soon they decide that he is just 'a carpenter (craftsman)' whose family they know well. Nothing special to be seen here, they seem to think. The old saying, *familiarity breeds contempt*, seems to sum up their attitude, especially when they refer to Jesus as the son of his mother. Jews were customarily known by their father's name even if the father had died. Jesus is astonished at their lack of faith.

Faith, in this context, implies an openness to perceive the presence and action of God (the Kingdom). Clearly, the people don't perceive the action of God in Jesus in spite of the impressive words he spoke and the miracles he performed. Were Jesus' family circumstances just too ordinary for them? They couldn't look beyond what was familiar to them in order to see God at work in him. Without that essential openness Jesus finds he can't work any great miracle among them even though he can cure a few sick people.

Faith is about being in relationship with Jesus (and therefore, with God). Relationships grow as people come to know and understand each other. In a faith relationship, we change as we begin to get to know Jesus and we come to see with his eyes, feel with his heart and act with his intention in the world.

Only when we begin to see with the eyes of Jesus can we perceive the otherwise 'hidden' presence of God in human beings and events. We begin to see the sacred 'hidden' in the secular and the ordinary.

Only with faith can we see the action of God enfolded in the ordinary and familiar, the presence of the divine in the human, the sacred in the secular. So, to

us, the division between sacred and secular almost disappears and almost everything appears 'sacred', and not just 'merely' human or secular.

Prayers of Intercession

God call us to be his own,
to be prophets of the kingdom.

By our prayer and action,
help us to make your vision for human life a reality in our world.

Called to proclaim the Word of God,
may our whole lives be a witness to your wisdom and love.

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,
we pray:

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.

Closing Prayer

Eternal God whose love never fails,
hear our prayers and grant what we ask
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us,
keep us from all evil,
and lead us to life everlasting.
Amen.

Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites for use by individuals, families and small groups as a prayerful celebration of the Word of God to help prepare us to celebrate the Eucharist with our worshipping communities. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. We are also conscious of the many people who, for various reasons including sickness and infirmity, cannot physically attend the Eucharist. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family.

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