

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 1:4-10 God appoints Jeremiah as a prophet to the nations (*NASB, alt*)

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, ⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.” ⁶ Then I said, “Alas, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, because I am a youth.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’ because everywhere I send you, you shall go, and all that I command you, you shall speak. ⁸ “Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you,” declares the LORD. ⁹ Then the LORD stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. ¹⁰ “See, I have appointed you this day over the nations and over the kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

PSALM: Psalm 71:1-6 (*NIV*)

¹ In You, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame. ² In Your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me; turn Your ear to me and save me. Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for You are my rock and my fortress. ⁴ Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel. ⁵ For You have been my hope, Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth. ⁶ From my birth I have relied on You; You brought me forth from my mother’s womb. I will ever praise You.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 The way of love (*HCSB, alt*)

¹ If I speak human or angelic languages but do not have love, I am a sounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ And if I donate all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body in order to boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not conceited, ⁵ does not act improperly, is not selfish, is not provoked, and

does not keep a record of wrongs. ⁶ Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never fails. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for languages, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when the perfect comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put aside childish things. ¹² For now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known. ¹³ Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:21-30 Jesus' prophetic words in His home town (TLV)
²¹ Then He [Jesus] began to tell them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your ears." ²² All were speaking well of Him and marvelling at the gracious words coming out of His mouth. And they were saying, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" ²³ But He said to them, "Doubtless you will say to Me this proverb, 'Doctor, heal yourself!' and 'What we have heard was done at Capernaum, do as much here also in your hometown.'" ²⁴ But He said, "Truly, I tell you, 'No prophet is accepted in his own hometown.' ²⁵ But with all truthfulness I say to you, that there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when heaven was closed for three and a half years and there came a great famine over all the land. ²⁶ Elijah was not sent to any of them, but only to Zarephath in the land of Sidon, to a widowed woman. ²⁷ There were many with leprosy in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them were purified apart from Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ Now all in the synagogue were filled with rage upon hearing these things. ²⁹ Rising up, they drove Him out of the town and brought Him as far as the edge of the mountain on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him off the cliff. ³⁰ But passing through the middle of them, He went on His way.