

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
January 28, 2018
The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Deuteronomy 18:15-20 + 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 + Mark 1:21-28



Reflection by: Sister Honora Werner, OP

What do we speak? What do we hear? What or who is the source of these words?

These questions, not necessarily in that order, pierce the hearts of preachers.

God tells Moses that anyone called “prophet” will receive words directly from God.

Speaking from any other source merits death!!

By baptism **we** are prophets! God’s Word is our message.

The psalmist urges us to listen for the voice of God with softened, receptive hearts.

Joy and the tender care of the Shepherd will be ours!

Not necessarily an easy life, but one held in the Good Shepherd’s embrace.

Jesus amazes people by the “authority” of his speech.

Even demons obey him.

His authority, of course, is God’s!

And ours? God fills us with grace and power.

The question is how do we use it?

Jesus freed people, included them, offered them friendship and compassion – all in the power of God.

Last week we heard him say “Follow Me.”

We do and so, imitate him in our use of power.

Those blinded by ignorance see. Those deafened by voices that shame or condemn them, hear.

Those in prisons of disease, loneliness, depression, addiction, and jails, know liberty.

Demons of prejudice, violence, hatred, and poverty are driven out of peoples’ lives.

Faithful preachers bring Good News to a world starving for it.

What a reason to celebrate!