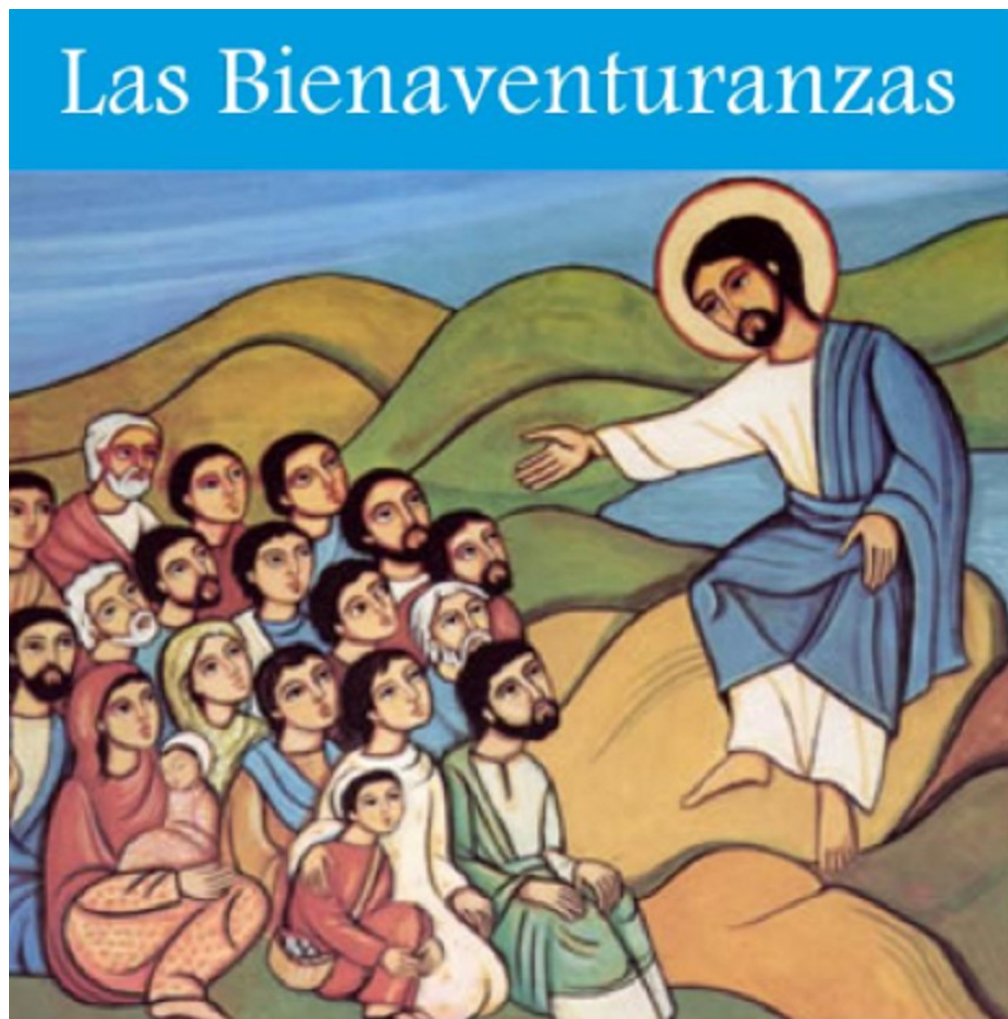


Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



LISTEN CLOSELY TO THE BEATITUDES

Reading 1 Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth, who have observed his law;
seek justice, seek humility; perhaps you may be sheltered on the day
of the LORD's anger.

But I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly,
who shall take refuge in the name of the LORD: the remnant of Israel.

They shall do no wrong and speak no lies;
nor shall there be found in their mouths a deceitful tongue;
they shall pasture and couch their flocks with none to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

R. Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

The LORD keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed,
gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets captives free. **R.**

The LORD gives sight to the blind;
the LORD raises up those who were bowed down.
The LORD loves the just; the LORD protects strangers.
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Reading 2 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Consider your own calling, brothers and sisters.
Not many of you were wise by human standards,
not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.
Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise,
and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong,
and God chose the lowly and despised of the world,
those who count for nothing,
to reduce to nothing those who are something,
so that no human being might boast before God.
It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus,
who became for us wisdom from God,
as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption,
so that, as it is written,
"Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord."

Gospel Matthew 5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of *God*.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.

Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven."



LISTEN CLOSELY TO THE BEATITUDES

When Jesus goes up the mountain and sits down to announce the Beatitudes, there's a crowd around him, but only «the disciples come close» to him to listen better to his message. What do we disciples of Jesus today hear if we come close to him?

Blessed are «the poor in spirit», those who know how to live with little, trusting always in God. Blessed is a Church with the soul of the poor because she will have less problems, will be more attentive to those in need and will live the Gospel more freely. Of her is God's reign.

Blessed are «those who suffer», those who live with a kindly and merciful heart. Blessed a Church full of meekness. She will be a gift for this world so full of violence. She will inherit the promised land.

Blessed are «those who mourn», because they unjustly suffer trials and marginalization. With them can be created a better and more worthy world. Blessed the Church who suffers

Blessed are «those who hunger and thirst for justice», those who haven't lost the desire to be more just or the eagerness to make a more worthy world. Blessed the Church who passionately seeks God's reign and God's justice. In her will be encouraged the best of the human spirit. One day her yearning will be satisfied.

Blessed are «the merciful» who act, work and go about moved by compassion. They are the ones who on the earth most resemble the Father of heaven. Blessed the Church for whom God takes out her heart of stone and gives her a heart of flesh. She will obtain mercy.

Blessed are «those who work for peace» patiently and faithfully, seeking the good for everyone. Blessed the Church who introduces peace to the world and not discord, reconciliation and not confrontation. She will be a «child of God».

Blessed are those who are «persecuted for the sake of justice» and respond humbly to injustices and offenses. They help us to conquer evil by good. Blessed the Church persecuted for following Jesus. Of her is God's reign.

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