

Call to Worship – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 29, 2012 Cycle B
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Our readings today invite us open our minds and our hearts to listen – really listen – to the word of God, the Word who is God – as if we were hearing it for the first time.

We see in the first reading an amazing thing: the Israelite people did not want God to speak directly to them. God's Word was too much for them, they said. They were afraid that they would die! They wanted intermediaries, or prophets to speak God's word to them.

In our lives today, how do we hear God's word – through one another, through others in authority, in the silence of our hearts at prayer, here together at worship? Does God's Word ever disturb us? Is God too much for us?

In today's Gospel passage Jesus enters the synagogue and this time the people are amazed because Jesus speaks with authority. Jesus does not claim the authority of the rabbi's before him but speaks from his core knowing, the inner truth of who he is. And the people were amazed and astonished.

When have we been amazed and astonished by God's Word?

As we begin our celebration of the Eucharist, let us pray that we may listen to and receive God's word into our hearts, allowing it to amaze us and astonish us – drawing us ever deeper into the heart of God's love.