

Call to Worship, July 6 - 7, 2018 - The Fourteenth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

Today's readings remind us that God's way is simple and surprising. Expecting grand gestures from an all-powerful deity, skeptics reject scripture's assertion that the Divine chooses everyday people to promote the Kingdom. It's amazing how often God's people fail to recognize the holiness right in front of them!

In the first reading God sends Ezekiel, an unpretentious man, to proclaim an uncomfortable message to the stiff-necked Israelites. God's assures Ezekiel that, "whether they heed or resist ... they shall know that a prophet has been among them."

In Paul's epistle we hear him lamenting the hardships of proclaiming the gospel, and the Lord reassures him. "My grace is sufficient, for power is made perfect in weakness." Against all odds, God uses Paul's frail humanity to proclaim the good news. When the people reject this flawed messenger, Paul's faith inspires him to embrace his weakness - in Christ our weakness makes us strong.

Finally, in today's gospel, even Jesus is rejected. Despite his wisdom and his miracles, he was too familiar - too ordinary to be accepted as a prophet in his hometown.

How often do misconceptions and preoccupations cause us to miss the sacredness of the ordinary - the sacredness of our own station? This week, let us ponder the ways that God may be calling us - challenging us to stretch our beliefs and our actions beyond the comforts of everyday complacency. Moreover, may our simple listening prayer open our hearts and our minds to the holiness around us.

- Eileen Omundsen