**30 JANUARY – FORTH SUNDAY O.T. [C]**

**"Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon."**

**The Holy Spirit is in Christ Jesus with all the power of his wisdom. Today Jesus must not show himself as the Messiah of God. This revelation has openly occurred only before Pilates, specifying that his kingdom is not of this world, though. Even before the chief priest, in the Sanhedrin, He has always revealed himself as the Son of man according to the prophecy of Daniel: “As I watched, Thrones were set up and the Ancient One took his throne. His clothing was snow bright, and the hair on his head as white as wool; His throne was flames of fire, with wheels of burning fire. A surging stream of fire flowed out from where he sat; Thousands upon thousands were ministering to him, and myriads upon myriads attended him. The court was convened, and the books were opened.** **As the visions during the night continued, I saw One like a son of man coming, on the clouds of heaven; When he reached the Ancient One and was presented before him, He received dominion, glory, and kingship; nations and peoples of every language serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, his kingship shall not be destroyed.” (Dn 7, 9-10.13-14)**

**On this day, in the Synagogue of Nazareth, Jesus does not read the prophecy of Isaiah in the scroll of Isaiah of the Chapter XI: “But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, A spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide.” (Is 11, 1-3) He reads another one, instead, in which one does not speak about the Messiah of the Lord directly, but about a man filled with the Holy Spirit sent by God to fulfil salvation and revelation. After Jesus has declared the fulfilment, on this day, of the words read, it is always the Holy Spirit who leads the talk, orientating the hearts to see Jesus as a prophet. What is the main characteristic of the prophet? He is not sent by God to perform miracles. He is sent to refer his Word. The Word one fulfils attests his truth. And this is the difference between a true prophet and a false one. The true prophet says the Word of God and this is always fulfilled. Elijah is prophet of the living God and he fulfils the miracle of the non- running out both of the flour and of the oil, only for a widow in Zarephath of Sidon. A foreigner. Even Elisha, great prophet of the Lord, heals from leper only Naaman the Syrian. A foreigner, him too. Jesus, being true prophet, must not perform any miracle to prove his truth. The Word He says attests today and ever if he is true prophet, true envoy by God or if he is false prophet and speaks in his name. Everything that happens in the synagogue of Nazareth is under most high vigilance of the Holy Spirit. Jesus will not have to say but the the words the Holy Spirit puts on his mouth. Not even a jota will have to be out of place. His entire mission would be compromised. Before Elijah, here is the confession the widow makes: "Now indeed I know that you you are a man of God," the woman replied to Elijah. "The word of the LORD comes truly from your mouth." (1Kg 17, 24) Here is the other confession, that of Naaman the Syrian: Now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel. Please accept a gift from your servant." (2Kg 5, 15) What was the reaction of the inhabitants of Nazareth instead? That of wanting to kill Jesus the Lord, hurling him down the brow of the hill on which the town had been built. Reaction not of faith, but of great wickedness and evil of heart.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 4,21-30**

**He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" He said to them, "Surely you will quote me this proverb, 'Physician, cure yourself,' and say, 'Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum.'" And he said, "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But he passed through the midst of them and went away.**

**On this day, Jesus attests of being true prophet of the living God. The Word said by the lord to the prophet Jeremiah is fulfilled in Him: “To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you. See, I place my words in your mouth! This day I set you over nations and over kingdoms, To root up and to tear down, to destroy and to demolish, to build and to plant. For it is I this day who have made you a fortified city, A pillar of iron, a wall of brass, against the whole land: Against Judah's kings and princes, against its priests and people. They will fight against you, but not prevail over you, for I am with you to deliver you” (cf. Jer. 1, 4-19) Jesus parts the crowd in half. They remain motionless as stone. He passed through in the midst of them and went away. May the Mother of God help us.**