

## **JULY LITURGIES**

**July 5, 2009**

Welcome to St. John's Church. An experience common to all God's messengers in the Bible was the rejection of their ministry and message by their own people. In today's reading from Mark, we hear of Jesus' being rejected in his home synagogue, in which he quotes the old saying about prophets among their own people.

The Old Testament reading parallels this in God's word to Ezekiel, sending him to a stubborn and rebellious people.

Our reading from 2 Corinthians is the conclusion of this letter, in which, having been rejected by some of those in the Corinthian church, and having been provoked to boast of his courage and ministry, Paul then ascribes whatever virtue or success he has had to God's working in him.

As we gather in liturgy, we remember that we are a part of that people whose story is the continuation of the biblical story. That story recalls not only our faithfulness, but also our rebellion. Above all, however, it recalls the fact that even at our worst, God has nevertheless remained faithful to us and continues to call us as into ministry and witness in the world. Will we respond at our best or at our worst? Will we reject the call or will we accept it?

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