



Hosanna



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12TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Year A

INTRODUCTION

Jesus gave the mission command to the disciples. They were invited to spread the good news. He also warned the disciples about the life of the future church. His warning was clear in stating that the people of this world will hate you and your message. The disciple may be dragged in public to be persecuted in the name of Christ. The sufferings of the disciples for the sake of the gospel will purify and strengthen the communities.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever. (Ps 27:8-9)

COLLECT

Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

In the first reading, prophet Jeremiah speaks about the provi-

dence and care of God. God chose Jeremiah from Anathoth to prophesy in Jerusalem. God strengthened him in his sufferings. He proclaims the protection of the Lord out of experience.

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah 20:10-13

Jeremiah said, "I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! 'Denounce him! Let us denounce him!' say all my familiar friends, watching for my fall. 'Perhaps he will be deceived, then we can overcome him, and take our revenge on him.' But the Lord is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten. O Lord of hosts, who triest the righteous, who seest the heart and the mind, let me see thy vengeance upon them, for to thee have I committed my cause. Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers."

Responsorial Psalm (68)

R/ In your great love, answer me, O God.

It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face, that I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons. I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me.

R/ In your great love, answer me, O God.

This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour. In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails Lord, answer, for your love is kind; In your compassion, turn towards me.

R/ In your great love, answer me, O God.

The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the Lord listens to the needy and does not spurn his servants in their chains. Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, the sea and all its living creatures.

R/ In your great love, answer me, O God.

SECOND READING

In the second reading, the author of the letter to the Romans says that the death came into this world because of the sin of one man, Adam. The death finds no meaning in Jesus because he won over death. He accepted to die on the cross so that he may destroy the death.

A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:12-15

As sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned – Sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to

Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

ALLELUIA (Jn 1:14)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 10:26-33

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: "So have no fear; for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, utter in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim upon the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So every one who acknowledge me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Dear friends, the church is missionary by its nature. Jesus commanded the gospel to be preached in all corners of the world. At the same time, he also warned that the persecutions will never end. Let us pray for the mission work in the church. Let us also present the missionaries and their sufferings to the Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

1. Lord bless our Pope Francis, Archbishop Bernard Moras, all the bishops, priests and the religious that they be strong by your grace in their ministry and mission. Let us pray.

2. Lord, we present all the suffering priests in the world for various reasons. Be their source of strength and life. Let us pray.

3. Lord, we present our community to your care. Grant us the powers of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel by our word and action. Let us pray.

4. Lord, we present the people who have not heard about you. Grant wisdom and courage to the church to reach out to them. Let us pray.

Celebrant: Lord, bless all our prayers for the church and its missionary work. Let your name be glorified in all corners of the world. Help us to support the church to accomplish the mission that you entrusted. Through Christ our lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise and grant that, cleansed by its action, we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE IV (ORDINARY)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and every where

to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For by his birth he brought renewal to humanity's fallen state, and by his suffering, cancelled out our sins; by his rising from the dead he has opened the way to eternal life, and by ascending to you, O Father, he has unlocked the gates of heaven.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season. (*Ps 144:15*)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son, we ask of your mercy, O Lord, that what we celebrate with constant devotion may be our sure pledge of redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION

In the beginning, Persecutors were part of the proclamation of the gospel. The blood of the martyrs marked the growth of the church. The disciples were presented, by passed considered strange, mocked, ridiculed and pushed out. They were even physically harassed and executed to death. They were murdered for the sake of the gospel and for the name of Jesus. All these were foreseen by Jesus. Therefore, Jesus encouraged the disciples. In today's gospel, Jesus uttered three times, "Do not be afraid". He said this because the people were ready to crucify Jesus. They would also do the same to his disciples. The disciples were not above their master. As Jesus was persecuted, his

disciples would also be persecuted. When the earthly beings desire for the heavenly things, the earthly elements hate the earthly beings. Light and darkness are always contrary to each other. One hate the other. Those who love darkness are constantly contrary or rival to those who love the light. If the disciples admit themselves as participants of God's kingdom, the earthly kingdom will persecute them. Persecution allows the disciples to participate in the sufferings and the cross of Christ. In other words of St. Paul, "It has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him". When St. Paul wrote to Timothy, he said, "In fact, everyone who wants live a godly life in Christ's Jesus will be persecuted!" Jesus strengthens the disciples not to fear the persecutors. When the truth is spoken, it has to be revealed. God ensures the revelation of the truth and the truth will be victorious. Abuse, isolation, coldness and mistreatment will be handed by God. God also takes care when the character is assassinated and the reputation of the believer is spoiled. Jesus knows the heart, reputation and the character of the disciple. He rewards the disciples for the unjust betrayals and unwanted character assassinations. God will restore the

goodness, Character and will of the disciples and urge them to proclaim the gospel. Scripture says, "Go, stand in the temple court, and tell the people the full message of this new life".

The gospel says, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell". Men need not fear because the power is limited and momentary. They can only persecute the being bound in time and space. They are powerless to the soul or the heavenly reward. They may cause physical death and not spiritual death. As St. Paul says, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardships or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger as sword". Fear God. God can destroy both the soul and the body. Soul may suffer eternal life. Destruction of soul comes from God and not from men. God encourages the believer in the persecution. God cares human. God cares human more than sparrows. As St. Peter says, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you". God treats the disciples as his adopted sons and daughters. From the disciples, God expects loyalty and faithfulness always.

- Rev. Fr. Arockiaswamy Sebastian

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