

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

COLLECT

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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.

Amen

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

In those days: The officials said to the king, 'Let this man, Jeremiah, be put to death, for he is weakening the hands of the soldiers who are left in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people, but their harm.'

King Zedekiah said, 'Behold, he is in your hands, for the king can do nothing against you.' So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern of Malchiah, the king's son, which was in the court of the guard, letting Jeremiah down by ropes. And there was no water in the cistern, but only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.

Ebed-melech went from the king's house and said to the king, 'My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they did to Jeremiah the prophet by casting him into the cistern, and he will die there of hunger, for there is no bread left in the city.'

Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, 'Take thirty men with you from here, and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 40(39):2. 3. 4. 18. R 14b

R Lord, make haste to help me!

I waited, I waited for the Lord, and he stooped down to me. He heard my cry. R

He drew me from the deadly pit, from the miry clay. He set my feet upon a rock, made my footsteps firm. R

He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. Many shall see and fear and shall trust in the Lord. R

Wretched and poor though I am, the Lord is mindful of me. You are my rescuer, my help; O my God, do not delay. R

R Lord, make haste to help me!

SECOND READING

Hebrews 12:1-4

Brothers and Sisters: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

PTO

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or faint-hearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia...

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord, and I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia...

GOSPEL

Luke 12:49-53

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptised with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided: three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law,

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive our oblation, O Lord, by which is brought about a glorious exchange, that, by offering what you have given, we may merit to receive your very self. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Made partakers of Christ through these Sacraments, we humbly implore your mercy, Lord, that, conformed to his image on earth, we may merit also to be his coheirs in heaven. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

Love for God and desire for inner peace will set those who believe in me at odds with wicked men and women ...

The way to attain the perfection of divine love is then stated. “Do you think that I have come to bring peace on earth?”

In other words: Do not imagine that I have come to offer people a sensual, worldly, and unruly peace that will enable them to be united in their vices and achieve earthly prosperity.

“No, I tell you, I have not come to offer that kind of peace, but rather division”—a good, healthy kind of division, physical as well as spiritual.

Love for God and desire for inner peace will set those who believe in me at odds with wicked men and women, and make them part company with those who would turn them from their course of spiritual progress and from the purity of divine love, or who attempt to hinder them.

Commentary on Luke by
Denis the Carthusian,
Opera omni, xii 72-4