

## Twelfth Sunday of the Year A



*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.** Ps 27

Jesus asks us to be witnesses in the world. However, we often lack the courage to witness openly to our faith. But Jesus says to us what he said to his first disciples: 'Do not be afraid.' So let's bring our fears to him and ask his help to overcome them.

Lord, you strengthen us when we are weak.	<b>Lord have mercy.</b>
Lord, you sustain us when we are afraid.	<b>Christ have mercy.</b>
Lord, you give us a new heart when we fail.	<b>Lord have mercy.</b>

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Let us pray:

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. **Amen.**

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 20: 10-13

Jeremiah said: I hear so many disparaging me, "terror from every side!" Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All those who used to be my friends watched for my downfall, 'perhaps he will be seduced into error. Then we will master him and take our revenge!' But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, mastered, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs. But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice, who scrutinise the loins and heart, let me see the vengeance you will take on them, for I have committed my cause to you. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Psalm 68

**Response: 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.      **Response:**

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.      **Response:**

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.      **Response:**

SECOND READING:

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans

Romans 5: 12-15

Sin entered the world through one man and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of truth will be my witness;  
and you too will be my witnesses. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

Matthew 10: 26-33

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord.**

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

*Offertory:*

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

*Prayer over the Offering*

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. **Amen.**

*Preface:*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Christ our Lord.  
For through his Paschal Mystery,

he accomplished the marvellous deed,  
by which he has freed us from the yoke of sin and death,  
summoning us to the glory of being now called  
a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,  
a people for your own possession,  
to proclaim everywhere your mighty works,  
for you have called us out of darkness  
into your own wonderful light.  
And so, with the Angels and Archangels,  
with Thrones and Dominions,  
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,  
we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The mystery of faith: **We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

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

#### REFLECTION

A Celtic Prayer

I rise today  
with God's strength to direct me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eyes to look before me,  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to speak for me,  
God's hand to uphold me,  
God's pathway before me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's host to save me -  
from temptations,  
from one man or many  
that seek to destroy me. Amen.

#### *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. **Amen.**

#### *Final Blessing:*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lord, bless and strengthen your people.

May we remain faithful to you

and always rejoice in your mercy.

**Amen.**

May almighty God bless you:

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Mass is ended. Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

My God, I tremble with the sense of terror on every side. I need you close as champion and guide. My heart is faint and I am weak. Please come to me; in whispers speak the words I must hear, to summon the strength and courage, to risk life's journey - its breadth and length. With sparrow's trust in your loving care, that holds me near and lets me dare to hear in darkness, of your great might, and speak of it in day's bright light. Amen.