

22ND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

September 03 2017

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you. (Ps 85:3, 5)

PENITENTIAL RITE

Human beings have tremendous survival instincts. A well-motivated person may never succumb to pressure tactics, both bodily and spiritual. Workers have survived without proper food and water for many days in the case of a mine tragedy, or a building collapse due to external causes. Jeremiah was a great survivor though throughout his life he had faced opposition to his teaching and attacks on his person. It was his strong faith in God who called him to the prophetic mission that kept him going. Jesus felt that the opposition that was building up to his mission was going to climax in his death. But Jesus did not consider flight as an option but faced the situation because he realized that nothing less than his death was required to ignite the fire for a new beginning of God-human relationship. Jesus accomplished his mission because he was willing to pay the prize. What steps am I taking to accomplish my mission? (Pause)

I confess to almighty God/...

Glory to God in the highest...

COLLECT

God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you...

FIRST READING

(This poetic lament reflects Jeremiah's intense pain bordering on despair. It portrays Jeremiah confessing to God that he has reached the limit of his endurance.)

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah (20:7-9)

O Lord, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived; thou art stronger than I, and thou hast prevailed. I have become a laughing stock all the day; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

The Word of the Lord

PSALM (63)

Response: **For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.**

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. R/

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. R/

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. R/

For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. R/

SECOND READING

(Paul uses three adjectives, namely, 'what is good, acceptable and perfect' to sum up the transformed life of the Christian).

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans (12:1-2)

I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The Word of the Lord

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia! (Eph 1:17-18)

GOSPEL

(This passage contains the first of the passion predictions and links the sufferings of the disciples to Jesus' sufferings).

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew (16:21-27)

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him and began to rebuke him, saying "God forbid, Lord!

This shall never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay every man for what he has done."

The Gospel of the Lord

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Cel: Jeremiah felt strongly that his call to be prophet of God was irresistible but at the same time experienced the ridicule, and deception from all around including God Himself. Jesus would not allow anything to come between him and the accomplishment of his mission that would climax in his painful death. That we too may become aware of our Christian call to discipleship and achieve it with dedication and hard work, we pray, saying,

Response: **Lord, help us to follow you amidst difficulties.**

1. For the pope, the bishops and the priests that they may prepare the people to face the realities of life and not be misled by the world that is ridden with false promises, utopian dream of instant success, wealth, fame and high society living, we pray... R/

2. For the poor and the uneducated who easily can become victims of ridicule and exploitation on account of their social status and condition that the poor sections of society may be protected against such exploitations, we pray... R/

3. That free speech and expression may become available to all peoples especially in countries where such a right is denied, we pray... R/

4. For all Christians that they may accept hardships and sufferings in their lives with faith, knowing that they are an integral part of discipleship, we pray... R/

5. For all of us present in this Eucharistic assembly that enlightened by the Word of God we may accept the hardships and trials that come on our way without losing sight of our final goal of life which in union with Christ, we pray... R/

(Pray for community and personal needs)

Cel: God our Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus, who showed absolute determination to accomplish his life's mission through submitting himself to the bitterest sufferings that human beings are ever subjected to. Give us the grace that we may accept the sufferings that come on our way and accept them as challenges indispensable for the attainment of our goal of life. We make this prayer ...

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this sacred offering, O Lord, confer on us always the blessings of salvation, that what it celebrates in mystery it may accomplish in power. Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE I (Ordinary)

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 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:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you. (Ps 30:20)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table, we beseech you, Lord, that, being the food of charity, it may confirm our hearts and stir us to serve you in our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord.

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