

## 120 TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### FIRST READING

Jeremiah 38.1-2ab,4-6, 8-10

*I was born, a man of strife and contention, for the whole land!*

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

- 1 The officials of King Zedekiah heard the words  
that Jeremiah was saying to all the people:
- 2 “Thus says the Lord:  
‘Those who stay in the city shall die;  
but those who go out to the Chaldeans shall live.’”
- 4 Then the officials said to the king,  
“This man ought to be put to death,  
because he is discouraging the soldiers who are left in this city,  
and all the people,  
by speaking such words to them.  
For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people,  
but their harm.”
- 5 King Zedekiah said,  
“Here he is; he is in your hands;  
for the king is powerless against you.”
- 6 So they took Jeremiah  
and threw him into the cistern of Malchiah, the king’s son,  
which was in the court of the guard,  
letting Jeremiah down by ropes.  
Now there was no water in the cistern, but only mud,  
and Jeremiah sank in the mud.
- 8 So Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, an officer in the king’s house,  
left the king’s house and spoke to the king,
- 9 “My lord king,  
these men have acted wickedly  
in all they did to the prophet Jeremiah  
by throwing him into the cistern to die there of hunger,  
for there is no bread left in the city.”
- 10 Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian,  
“Take three men with you from here,  
and pull the prophet Jeremiah up from the cistern  
before he dies.”

The word of the Lord.

*A period of silence is observed after the reading.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 40.1, 2, 3, 17 (R.13b)

**R.** Lord, come to my aid!

- 1 I waited patiently for the Lord;  
he inclined to me and heard my cry. **R.**
- 2 He drew me up from the desolate pit,  
out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock,  
making my steps secure. **R.**
- 3 He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear,  
and put their trust in the Lord. **R.**
- 17 As for me, I am poor and needy,  
but the Lord takes thought for me.  
You are my help and my deliverer;  
do not delay, O my God. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 12.1-4

*With perseverance, let us run the race that is set before us.*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

- 1 Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,  
let us also lay aside every weight  
and the sin that clings so closely,  
and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,  
2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,  
who for the sake of the joy that was set before him  
endured the cross,  
disregarding its shame,  
and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.
- 3 Consider Jesus who endured such hostility against himself from sinners,  
so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.
- 4 In your struggle against sin  
you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

The word of the Lord.

*A period of silence is observed after the reading.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10.27

*This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.  
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.*

*My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;  
I know them, and they follow me.*

## GOSPEL

Luke 12.49-53

*I did not come for your tranquillity, but rather for division.*

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples:

49 “I came to bring fire to the earth,  
and how I wish it were already kindled!  
50 I have a baptism with which to be baptized,  
and what stress I am under until it is completed!  
51 “Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth?  
No, I tell you, but rather division!  
52 From now on five in one household will be divided,  
three against two and two against three;  
53 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.