

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE THEME OF fear and denial seems prominent in today's Gospel. It is in stark contrast to other messages presented throughout the Bible. However, perhaps the theme is actually a promise of life everlasting. Jesus is preparing his followers to spread Christianity and in describing the dangers of this journey, he also promises that their souls shall live forever.

What does this Gospel mean for us today? We are faced daily with situations in which we can expose our faith or keep it hidden. I can think of many discussions in which I have not spoken up in defence of my beliefs. For this, will I be denied as the Gospel describes?

Jesus also reminds us that we are so precious in God's eyes that each hair on our heads is numbered. So what will it be? Are we so loved that when we fail to proclaim our faith we will be forgiven? Then what is the denial that Jesus mentions? "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father." When we fall, we must remember that we are still in the Lord's care. We can proclaim his love from the rooftops, as have many believers before us. We have all been promised a chance for life everlasting.

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SUNDAY JUNE 21

Roman Missal p. 448; Sunday Lectionary p. 472

Entrance Antiphon (*Cf. Psalm 27.8-9*)

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.

Introductory Rites (p. 5)

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. **Amen.**

First Reading (*Jeremiah 20.10-13*)

Jeremiah cried out: I hear many whispering: “Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!” All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. “Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him.”

But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten.

O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 69) —————

R. Lord, in your steadfast love, answer me.

It is for your sake that I have borne re-**proach**,
that shame has covered **· my** face.

I have become a stranger to my **· kindred**,
an alien to my **· mother's** children.

It is zeal for your house that has con-**sumed me**;
the insults of those who insult you have fallen **· on** me. *R.*

But as for me, my prayer is to you, O **· Lord**.

At an acceptable time, **· O** God,
in the abundance of your steadfast love, **· answer me**.

With your steadfast **· help**, rescue **me**.

Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is **· good**;
according to your abundant mercy, turn **· to** me. *R.*

Let the oppressed see it and be **· glad**;
you who seek God, let your hearts **· re-vive**.

For the Lord hears the **· needy**,
and does not despise his own that are **· in** bonds.

Let heaven and earth **· praise him**,
the seas and everything **· that** moves **in** them. *R.*

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Second Reading (Romans 5.12-15) —————

Brothers and sisters: Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, so death spread to all people because all have sinned. Sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (See John 15.26, 27)

Alleluia. Alleluia. The Spirit of truth will testify on my behalf, says the Lord, and you also are to testify. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (Matthew 10.26-33) —————

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his Apostles: "Fear no one; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.

"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? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your

head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before humans, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before humans, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.”

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

Profession of Faith (p. 8)

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only. There are more suggestions at www.livingwithchrist.ca

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church, and for all who witness to Christ in the face of rejection, ridicule or danger, we pray to the Lord: R.

For a fairer distribution of the world's resources, we pray to the Lord: R.

For the chronically ill and all who suffer physical, emotional or mental pain, we pray to the Lord: R.

For all fathers today: in gratitude for their love and care for their families, we pray to the Lord: R.

For our parish community, striving to bring God's love to those with whom we live and work, we pray to the Lord: R.

Preparation of the Gifts (p. 10)

SUNDAY JUNE 21

Prayer over the Offerings

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 (*Sundays in Ordinary Time, p. 12*)

Communion Antiphon (*Psalm 144.15*)

The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

or

(John 10.11, 15)

I am the Good Shepherd, and I lay down my life for my sheep, says the Lord.

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.**

Blessing and Dismissal (*p. 31*)