

**FIRST READING**

You bore me to be a man of strife  
for the whole world (Jeremiah 15:10)

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

**T**he nation's leaders said to king Zedekiah,  
"Jeremiah should be put to death!  
He's saying things that are upsetting every soldier left in the city  
and everyone else as well.  
He isn't trying to help anyone.  
He just wants to cause trouble."

"Do what you want with him!" Zedekiah replied.  
"I can't stop you."

So they took Jeremiah to the open courtyard where prisoners were kept.  
Then they let him down with ropes  
into the cistern that belonged to Malchiah, the king's son.  
There was no water in the cistern,  
and Jeremiah sank down in the mud.

Jeremiah's friend Ebedmelech went out of the palace  
and reported to the king,  
"Your Majesty, those men were wrong  
to put Jeremiah the prophet down in a cistern.  
There's no more food in the city,  
and he will starve to death."

The king then told Ebedmelech the Ethiopian,  
"Take thirty men and pull Jeremiah out before he dies."

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

40:1, 2, 17

*R. (14b) Lord, come to my aid!*

I patiently waited, Lord,  
for you to hear my prayer.

*R. Lord, come to my aid!*

You listened and pulled me  
from a lonely pit  
full of mud and mire.  
You let me stand on a rock  
with my feet firm.

*R. Lord, come to my aid!*

I am poor and needy,  
but, Lord God,  
you care about me,  
and you come to my rescue.  
Please hurry and help.

*R. Lord, come to my aid!*

## **SECOND READING**

Let us persevere in running the race that lies ahead.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 12:1-4

**B**rothers and sisters:

Such a large crowd of witnesses is all around us!  
So we must get rid of everything that slows us down,  
especially the sin that just won't let go.  
And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us.

We must keep our eyes on Jesus,  
who leads us and makes our faith complete.  
He endured the shame of being nailed to a cross,  
because he knew that later on he would be glad he did.  
Now he is seated at the right side of God's throne!

So keep your mind on Jesus,  
who put up with many insults from sinners.  
Then you won't get discouraged and give up.

None of you have yet been hurt in your battle against sin.

The word of the Lord.

## ALLELUIA

John 10:27

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

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

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

## GOSPEL

I have come not to give peace, but discord.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

12:49-53

**J**esus said to his disciples:

“I came to set fire to the earth,  
and I surely wish it were already on fire!

“I am going to be put to a hard test.  
And I will have to suffer a lot of pain until it is over.

“Do you think I came to bring peace to earth?  
No indeed!  
I came to make people choose sides.  
A family of five will be divided,  
with two of them against the other three.  
Fathers and sons will turn against one another,  
and mothers and daughters will do the same.  
Mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law  
will also turn against each other.”

The gospel of the Lord.



**Activity for older kids: Team Jesus**

Materials needed: Poster board, drawing paper, pens, pencils, crayons, markers.

Directions: Split the class into several groups.

Group 1: Create a short skit/commercial that will get people to join Team Jesus. Ask them to perform it for the class.

Group 2: Create a large banner/poster advertising Team Jesus. Have the entire class process back into church behind the banner at the end of class.

Group 3: Design the Team Jesus T-Shirt.

**Activity for younger kids: Follow the Leader**

Materials needed: Items to do chores, small lollipops or other small toys/treats.

Preparation: Ask 2 older kids or adults to be the Team Leaders. Plan a route for each of them to take with actions and activities along the way.

Directions: Have the older kids give short speeches about how great their team will be. They should not discuss where their team will be going or what they will be doing. Ask the kids to choose which team they want to be on.

The leaders will then take them on a journey. Everywhere one of the leaders goes will be a small chore for the team. That leader will also keep their team indoors. The Leader of the other team will take their group outside and all of their stops will have some kind of small treat.

When the teams return ask the kids why they chose the team they were on and how they felt about that choice now that they know what the other team did. Ask the team that did chores, how they could have made a better choice (get more information, not follow their best friend's lead, etc.) Ask the team that found the small treasures/treats, how they think the other team feels about them getting stuff. Then discuss with them what Jesus would choose to do to be nice to the other team and make them feel better (share the treasures/treats).