

# [89] TWELFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME A

## FIRST READING

The Lord has delivered the soul of the needy  
from the hands of those who are evil.

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

20:10-12a, 13

I heard the crowds whisper, "Everyone's afraid!  
Tell on him! Tell on him!"  
All of my friends are waiting for me to make a mistake.  
They say, "He will slip up.  
Then we can trap him and get even at last."

But the Lord is with me like a mighty soldier.  
And those troublemakers will stumble,  
then fall down and fail.  
They will be forever disgraced and terribly ashamed.

Lord All-Powerful, you test everyone who does right,  
and you know everything anyone thinks or feels.

Sing and praise the Lord!  
He rescues the helpless from cruel oppressors.

The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

69:13, 16, 29b-30a

*R. (14c) Lord, in your great love, answer me.*

I pray to you, Lord.  
So when the time is right,  
answer me and help me  
with your wonderful love.

*R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.*

Answer me, Lord!  
You are kind and good.  
Pay attention to me!  
You are truly merciful.

*R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.*

Protect me, God,  
and keep me safe!  
I will praise the Lord God  
with a song.

*R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.*

## **ALLELUIA**

John 15:26b, 27a

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

The Spirit of truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord,  
and you also will be my witnesses.

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

## **GOSPEL**

Do not fear those who can kill the body.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 10:26-31

**J**esus said to his disciples:

“Don’t be afraid of anyone!  
Everything that is hidden will be found out,  
and every secret will be known.”

“Whatever I say to you in the dark,  
you must tell in the light.  
And you must announce from the housetops  
whatever I have whispered to you.”

“Don’t be afraid of people.  
They can kill you,  
but they cannot harm your soul.  
Instead, you should fear God  
who can destroy both your body and your soul in hell.

The gospel of the Lord.

## Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Opening Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for your message of trust. You tell me you are with me. I never have to be afraid of anyone or anything. You have the words of truth so I believe in You. Whenever I feel afraid, help me remember you are with me. You are always ready to help me if I ask you. Protect me and keep me safe and I will praise you with songs in my heart. Please keep all children in your safe and loving care. Amen.

### Readings:

Jeremiah 20:10-12a, 13

Psalms 69:13, 16, 29b-30

Gospel: Matthew 10:26-31

### Reflection:

In today's reading the friends of Jeremiah are telling him: "Everyone is afraid – tell on him." They are waiting for him to make a mistake. Jeremiah was not afraid because he knew that God was with him so he was glad and praised God. Sometimes our friends say things to us that make us afraid or hurt us. If we remember that God is with us we will not pay attention to what they say.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples, and us, "Don't be afraid of anyone," They cannot harm your soul. We are afraid to hurt our parents or friends because we love them. We are afraid to offend God because He is so good to us. Jesus tells us He cares for the little birds. We are worth more than birds. Jesus loves us and cares for us. He even shed all his Blood and died on the Cross for us. We can never be afraid of Him! He loves us so much He stays with us in the Holy Eucharist and in our hearts.

### Discussion Questions:

Go to your heart room and answer these questions:

1. Who are you afraid of? Why? Ask Jesus to make you strong and help those people.
2. Are there some things that frighten you? These are like clouds that hide Jesus for you.
3. When you remember how much God loves you, can you still be afraid? Why?
4. What can you do when you feel afraid? (Sing, pray, remember Jesus is with me. Talk to someone you love.)

### Activity:

Blow up a balloon. Write or draw something you fear. Go outside and let the wind carry it away. You give your fear to Jesus and you do not have to be afraid anymore.