

In our gospel we are told to 'fear' God. In this context, 'fear' is not an unpleasant, painful emotion. It is to come to an awareness of the transcendence and power of God, and of his supreme good. It prompts us to take seriously God's love and to live our lives accordingly.

Jesus sends out his disciples, rightly telling them not to be afraid of those to whom they are sent, for they are to go confident of God's power & authority, in the knowledge that nothing can separate them from of God's love, a love that will bring all things to him.

*“To fear God means preferring nothing to Christ...it means holding fast to his love...standing by his cross bravely and fearlessly when his name and honour are challenged, showing in speech that firmness with which we profess our faith...This is what it means to wish to be a co-heir with Christ, to accomplish the command given by God, to fulfil the will of the Father.”*

St Cyprian

#### **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.

#### **Communion Antiphon**

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

#### **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.

## **Twelfth Sunday**

**Year A**

**21st June 2026**

### ***God, Strength of Those Who Are Sent***

In last week's gospel reading from Matthew, we heard how Jesus was moved with pity for the crowd, who were 'like sheep without a shepherd'. In response to this need, Jesus summons his apostles and instructs them on their Mission.

Matthew has gathered together and includes all of Jesus' sayings on the subject. It is clear that these instructions are not just meant for the Twelve alone, but to all who follow Jesus in any age. At the heart of discipleship, we must all be confident, that it is God's work we are involved in, and that He is truly by our side!

#### **Entrance Antiphon**

*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.*

#### **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.

#### **JEREMIAH 20: 10-13**

Jeremiah said: I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! 'Denounce him! Let us denounce him!' say all my close friends, watching for my fall. 'Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him.' But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they

will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten. O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.

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

#### THE WORD OF THE LORD

Jeremiah was preaching in Jerusalem in the years prior to the Babylonian exile 628 - 586 BC. He was sent by God to his own family, friends & community to tell them of God's displeasure at their lives, calling them to change their behaviour. Inevitably, Jeremiah's message was very unpopular and caused him a lot of anguish, suffering & ultimately, rejection. But Jeremiah is utterly convinced that he has been called & chosen by God for this work & that God is at his side protecting and strengthening him.

*No doubt the gospel is good news, but it also radically calls into question a world built without recognition of God and upon values foreign or even contrary to his law. Confrontation is unavoidable. A gospel that bothers no one and questions nothing is no longer the gospel.*

Days of the Lord - Year A

#### PSALM: 69(68):8-10. 14, 17. 33-35.

Response: *In your great mercy, answer me, O Lord.*

It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame has covered my face. To my own kin I have become an outcast, a stranger to the children of my mother. Zeal for your house consumes me, and taunts against you fall on me.

But I pray to you, O LORD, at an acceptable time. In your great mercy, answer me, O God, with your faithful salvation. LORD, answer, for your mercy is kind; in your great compassion, turn towards me.

The poor when they see it will be glad, and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the LORD attends to the needy, and does not spurn his own in their chains. Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, the seas and everything that moves in them.

#### ROMANS 5: 12-15

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

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

#### THE WORD OF THE LORD

We continue reading Paul's Letter to the young Christian community in Rome. In today's passage, Paul sets out a comparison between the first Adam, who earned for us sin and death, and Christ, the second Adam, who has given us grace and life.

***Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of truth will bear witness about me, says the Lord, and you also will bear witness. Alleluia!***

#### MATTHEW 10: 26-33

Jesus instructed his Apostles: 'Have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And 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? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father knowing. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.'

#### THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD