

20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

1st. READING (Jer 38, 4-6.8-10)

The king's leading men spoke to the king. "Let Jeremiah put to death, because he is weakening the will of the fighting men and the people left the city. In fact he is not out to save the people but to do harm." King Zedekiah said, "His life is in your hands for the king has no power against you." So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern of Malchiah the king's son, in the Guards' Court. They lowered him by means of ropes. There was no water in the cistern but only mud and Jeremiah sank into the mud. Ebedmelech went and spoke to him, "My lord king! These men have acted wickedly in all they did to Jeremiah the prophet. They threw him into the cistern where he will die." So the king ordered Ebedmelech the Ethiopian: "Take three men with you from here and draw Jeremiah the prophet out from the cistern before he dies."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 40)

With resolve I waited for the Lord;
he listened and heard me beg.

Out of the horrid pit he drew me,
out of deadly quicksand.
He settled my feet upon a rock
and made my steps steady.

He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and be awed
and put their trust in the Lord.

Though I am afflicted and poor,
yet the Lord thinks of me.
You are my help and my saviour
O Lord, do not delay!

2nd. READING (Heb 12,1-4)

What a cloud of innumerable witnesses surround us! So let us be rid of every encumbrance, and especially of sin, to persevere in running the race marked out before us. Let us look to Jesus the founder of our faith, who will bring it to completion. For the sake of the joy reserved for him, he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and then sat at the right of the throne of God. Think of Jesus who suffered so many contradictions from evil people, and you will not be discouraged or grow weary. Have you already shed your blood in the struggle against sin?

Gospel (Lk 12,49-53)

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to bring fire upon the earth and how I wish it were already kindled; but I have a baptism to undergo and what anguish I feel until it is over! Do you think that I have come to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on, in one house five will be divided; three against two, and two against three. 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 her mother-in-law."