

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who have prepared for those who
love you
good things which no eye can see,
fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of
your love,
so that, loving you in all things and above all
things,
we may attain your promises,
which surpass every human desire.
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 38:4-6. 8-10

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The king's leading men spoke to the king. "Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin." "He is in your hands as you know," King Zedekiah answered, "for the king is powerless against you." So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. "My lord king," he said "these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die." At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: "Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 39

Response:

Lord, come to my aid!

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. (R.)
2. He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm. (R.)
3. He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord. (R.)
4. As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay. (R.)

SECOND READING Hebrews 12:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 12:49-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

"Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;

through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive our oblation, O Lord,
by which is brought about a glorious
exchange,
that, by offering what you have given,
we may merit also to receive your very self.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Made partakers of Christ through these
Sacraments,
we humbly implore your mercy, Lord,
that, conformed to his image on earth,
we may merit also to be his coheirs in
heaven.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

NOT PEACE BUT DIVISION

(LUKE 12:49-53)

On an initial glance at today's Gospel, this statement from Jesus is truly frightening. More often than not, the image of God Jesus presents to us is a God of love, tenderness and compassion.

Contrast that image with the God that shows a more fearsome, demanding and frightening side. In some Gospel translations, the opening line reads, "I have come to throw fire on the earth." Throwing fire suggests a more judgemental God, unhappy with what he sees in the world. But this scene reveals that something more profound and destructive is about to happen. Jesus is moving towards Jerusalem where a painful death awaits him.

Rather than downplay some of the harsh images of God in today's Gospel, there is a perspective that may help us understand Jesus' journey to Calvary. The fire referred to in Luke's Gospel can be used to describe the power of the Holy Spirit. The fire of the Holy Spirit is thrown into our world so that we might be renewed. The fire can take on even another meaning and expresses how the final judgment of God is near at hand with the death and resurrection of Jesus. We know that the crucifixion weighs heavily on Jesus' mind today because he states, "I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed." This baptism is not the ritual that we all know and part take in. The word baptism in today's Gospel refers to the death that awaits Jesus. He is filled with anxiety at the prospect of what is about to happen in Jerusalem. So if the first part concerns Jesus and his impending death, the second part of the Gospel focuses on the disciples. They and their families must be ready for the disputes and divisions that will take place after Jesus' death. ■

DO

Read the Gospel again and focus particularly on the phrase, "Do you think I have come to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." How does Jesus cause division in your life?

LEARN

"Sometimes truth is not easy to listen to. Prophets have always had to deal with being persecuted for speaking the truth."

(Pope Francis, Mass at Casa Santa Marta, April 2018)

SAY

"Let us pray for peace and let us bring it about starting in our own homes."

Pope Francis



REFLECT

For Donal Neary SJ, in a reflection on today's Gospel, states that following Jesus has created divisions among people for generations. The fire of Jesus' message will divide people and sometimes those divisions creep into local communities and families. As St Luke states, "father against son, son against father..." Within societies across the world, these divisions against Jesus and his values are getting stronger and more vocal, especially in the areas of bioethics and migration. These values can cause conflict and division in the face of open debate. The church can be seen as judgemental and the enemy but since the very beginning, Jesus points to this as being fundamental to its existence. There is a certain power or fire that Jesus brought into the world that continues today. Fr Neary points out correctly that arising out of today's Gospel, we reflect on the people who put themselves in danger around the world for the right to religious freedom. Thomas Aquinas once said that "whatever is received is received according to the mode of the recipient". In other words, when God's love breaks into the world with all of its fire and power, how do we receive it - as judgemental or as compassionate and tender? Jesus did not come into the world as a trouble maker. He came to show us God's own values and God's love for his people. ■