

### **First Reading — Jeremiah 20:7-13**

<sup>7</sup>You persuaded me, LORD, and I was persuaded.  
You are stronger than I am, and you prevailed.  
I have become a laughingstock all day long,  
and everyone mocks me.

<sup>8</sup>Whenever I speak, I call out.  
I call out, “Violence and destruction!”  
because the word of the LORD has brought me  
insult and mockery all day long.

<sup>9</sup>If I say, “I will not mention him  
or speak in his name any more,”  
then there is a burning fire in my heart,  
shut up in my bones,  
and I am weary of holding it in.

I cannot!

<sup>10</sup>I hear many whispering,  
“Terror on every side!”  
“Denounce him! Let’s denounce him,”  
say all my close friends,  
those who are watching for my fall.  
“Perhaps he will be persuaded,  
then we will prevail against him  
and we will take our revenge on him.”

<sup>11</sup>But the LORD is with me like a fearsome warrior.  
So my persecutors will stumble  
and they will not prevail.  
They will be utterly ashamed  
because they have failed.

Their eternal dishonor  
will never be forgotten.

<sup>12</sup>LORD of Armies, you who test the righteous,  
who see the heart and the mind,  
let me see your vengeance on them,  
for I have revealed my cause to you.

<sup>13</sup>Sing to the LORD!

Praise the LORD,  
for he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the grasp of the wicked.

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## **Second Reading — Romans 5:12–15**

<sup>12</sup>So then, just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, so also death spread to all people because all sinned. <sup>13</sup>For even before the law was given, sin was in the world. Now, sin is not charged to one's account if there is no law, <sup>14</sup>and yet death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those whose sin was not like the transgression of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the gracious gift is not like Adam's trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of this one man, it is even more certain that God's grace, and the gift given by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ, overflowed to the many!

## **Gospel Reading — Matthew 10:24–33**

<sup>24</sup>"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor is a servant above his master.

<sup>25</sup>It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher and the servant like his master. If the master of the house was called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

<sup>26</sup>"So do not be afraid of them, because there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, and nothing hidden that will not be made known.

<sup>27</sup>What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, fear the one who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

<sup>29</sup>"Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without the knowledge and consent of your Father.

<sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup>"Everyone who confesses me before others, I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven. <sup>33</sup>But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven."

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