

# The Living Word

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

21 June 2020

## First Reading Jer 20:10-13

### A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

*He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.*

Jeremiah said:

'I hear so many disparaging me,  
"Terror from every side!  
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"  
All those who used to be my friends  
watched for my downfall,  
"Perhaps he will be seduced into error.  
Then we will master him  
and take our revenge!"  
But the Lord is at my side,  
a mighty hero;  
my opponents will stumble, mastered,  
confounded by their failure;  
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace  
will be theirs.  
But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe  
with justice,  
who scrutinise the loins and heart,  
let me see the vengeance you will take  
on them,  
for I have committed my cause to you.  
Sing to the Lord,  
praise the Lord,  
for he has delivered the soul  
of the needy  
from the hands of evil men.'

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35. R. v.14

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

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts,  
that shame covers my face,  
that I have become a stranger to my  
brothers,  
an alien to my own mother's sons.  
I burn with zeal for your house  
and taunts against you fall on me.  
(R.)
2. This is my prayer to you,  
my prayer for your favour.  
In your great love, answer me, O God,  
with your help that never fails:  
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;  
in your compassion, turn towards me.  
(R.)
3. The poor when they see it will be glad  
and God-seeking hearts will revive;  
for the Lord listens to the needy  
and does not spurn his servants in  
their chains.  
Let the heavens and the earth give  
him praise,  
the sea and all its living creatures.  
(R.)

## Second Reading Rom 5:12-15

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.*

Sin entered the world through one man,  
and through sin death, and thus death  
has spread through the whole human race  
because everyone has sinned. Sin existed  
in the world long before the Law was given.  
There was no law and so no one could be  
accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet  
death reigned over all from Adam to Moses,  
even though their sin, unlike that of Adam,  
was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but  
the gift itself considerably outweighed the  
fall. If it is certain that through one man's  
fall so many died, it is even more certain  
that divine grace, coming through the one  
man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an  
abundant free gift.

## Gospel Acclamation Jn 15:26. 27

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Spirit of Truth will bear witness  
to me, says the Lord,  
and you also will be my witnesses.  
Alleluia!**

## Gospel Mt 10:26-33

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

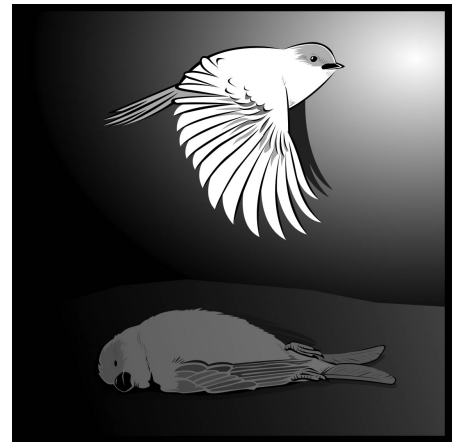
*Do not fear those who can kill the body.*

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows:  
'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now  
covered will be uncovered, and everything  
now hidden will be made clear. What I say to  
you in the dark, tell in the daylight;  
what you hear in whispers, proclaim from  
the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body  
but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather  
who can destroy both body and soul in hell.  
Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny?  
And yet not one falls to the ground without  
your Father knowing. Why, every hair on  
your head has been counted. So there is no  
need to be afraid; you are worth more than  
hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in  
the presence of men, I will declare myself  
for him in the presence of my Father in  
heaven. But the one who disowns me in  
the presence of men, I will disown in the  
presence of my Father in heaven.'

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## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Our Gospel reads: '... not one [sparrow] falls to the ground without your Father knowing.'

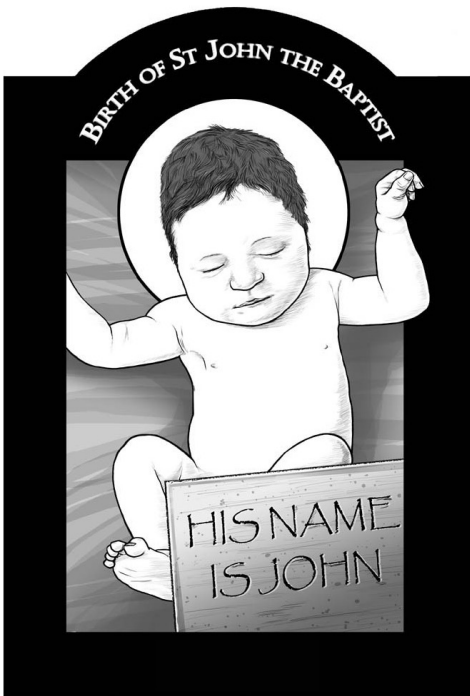
But that is a bad translation. The Greek simply says 'not one [sparrow] will fall to the ground without your Father.' Full stop! Our Heavenly Father accompanies a dying sparrow as it dies! That is the measure of the Creator's love for all creatures. God wants to – does – enter into the moment of death, *our* moment of death.

Now, that *would* be consoling if I were facing what Jesus was foreseeing for his disciples in the first century.

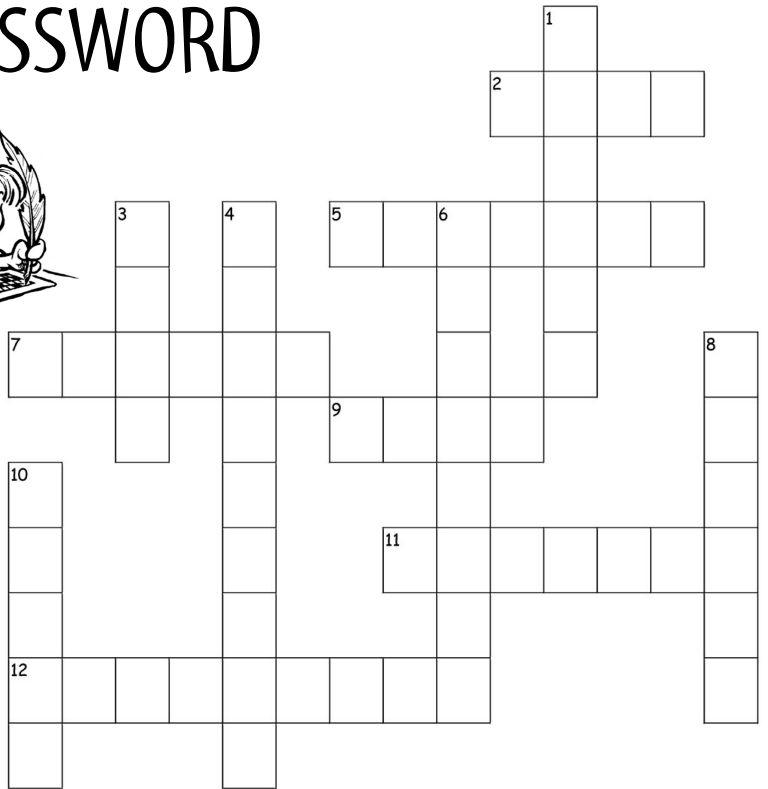
One of the first Christian groups to hear this Gospel was that set around the Tigris River running through Baghdad in modern day Iraq. Now they face terrible persecution from fanatical Muslims. We can barely imagine hearing today's Gospel amongst the remnant, left in Baghdad today. How does 'Do not be afraid' really sound to them?

So, we could pause for a moment to pray for those for whom today's Gospel is a challenge beyond our imagining.

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# CROSSWORD



**T**he Nativity of St John the Baptist as told in the Gospel of Luke, begins with the Angel Gabriel appearing to John's father in the temple. Gabriel told Zachariah that his elderly wife Elizabeth was to have a son named John. When Zachariah left the temple he was unable to speak, for Gabriel had told Zachariah that he would be left mute until his son was born. After Elizabeth gave birth there was disagreement among the family's relatives over the naming of the baby. When they approached Zachariah he wrote, "His name is John". From that moment, Zachariah was able to speak again and he praised God and made a prophesy about John, saying: "You will be called the prophet of the Most High."

## Across

- 2: the part of your body that has eyes and ears
- 5: wreck, break apart
- 7: frightened
- 9: to hurt another person
- 11: Jesus says even the hairs on your head are \_\_\_\_\_
- 12: the roofs of houses (two words)

## Down

- 1: something you do not tell anyone
- 3: the absence of light
- 4: to have spoken very quietly
- 6: you are worth more to God than these small birds
- 8: Jesus said "Everything that is \_\_\_\_\_ will be found out"
- 10: this allows you to see in the darkness

**Color in the shapes that contain a dot • and discover the hidden message!**

