

**FIRST READING**

Jeremiah 20:10–12a, 13

**A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah**

**I** heard the crowds whisper, "Everyone's afraid!  
Tell on him! Tell on him!"  
All of my friends are waiting for me to make a mistake.  
They say, "He will slip up.  
Then we can trap him and get even at last."

But the LORD is with me like a mighty soldier.  
And those troublemakers will stumble,  
then fall down and fail.  
They will be forever disgraced and terribly ashamed.

LORD All-Powerful, you test everyone who does right,  
and you know everything anyone thinks or feels.

Sing and praise the LORD!  
He rescues the helpless from cruel oppressors.

**The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Psalm 69:13, 16, 29b–30a*

**All:** *Lord, in your great love, answer me.*

*I pray to you, LORD.  
So when the time is right,  
answer me and help me  
with your wonderful love.*

**All:** *Lord, in your great love, answer me.*

*Answer me, LORD!  
You are kind and good. Pay attention to me!  
You are truly merciful.*

**All:** *Lord, in your great love, answer me.*

*Protect me, God,  
and keep me safe!  
I will praise the LORD God  
with a song.*

**All:** *Lord, in your great love, answer me.*

**GOSPEL**  
Matthew 10:26–31

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Don’t be afraid of anyone!

Everything that is hidden will be found out,  
and every secret will be known.

“Whatever I say to you in the dark,  
you must tell in the light.

And you must announce from the housetops  
whatever I have whispered to you.

“Don’t be afraid of people.

They can kill you,

but they cannot harm your soul.

Instead, you should fear God

who can destroy both your body and your soul in hell.

“Aren’t two sparrows sold for only a penny?

But your Father knows when any one of them falls to the ground. Even  
the hairs on your head are counted.

So don’t be afraid!

You are worth much more than many sparrows.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**