

## THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

31st August 2008

### First Reading

Jer. 15:15-21

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 16

**Response:** *Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.*

1. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

2. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
**R.** nor let your beloved know decay. **R.**

3. You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever. **R.**

### Second Reading

Rom. 12:1-13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

*May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual

worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. This is the word of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. **Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

Mtt. 16:21-27

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

℟: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

*If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves*

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Then Jesus told his disciples, "and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. For the gospel of the Lord **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

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