

As we honor our fathers today we hear Jesus reassure his disciples by reminding them of the tender care of his heavenly Father. Our heavenly Father watches over us assiduously, faithfully, lovingly; every hair on our heads is accounted for. Let us recall all the times our own fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and father figures—living and deceased—made us feel safe and secure with their vigilant care.

As we gather together let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith: Page 102

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, (bow as we say) and by the Holy Spirit he 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.

Introductory Rite:

Greeting:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed be God for ever.

Penitential Rite:

My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins.

Lord Jesus, you send us the Spirit of truth to be our helper and guide: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you died and rose again to bring new life to your people: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you are the giver of every good gift: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Opening Prayer:

Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love.

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.**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading Page 70

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah 20:10-13

Jeremiah said: "I hear the whisperings of many: 'Terror on every side! Denounce! let us denounce him!' All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine. 'Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail, and take our vengeance on him.' But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion: my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph. In their failure they will be put to utter shame, to lasting, unforgettable confusion. O LORD of hosts, you

who test the just, who probe mind and heart, let me witness the vengeance you take on them, for to you I have entrusted my cause. Sing to the LORD, praise the LORD, for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Page 72

R/. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

Psalm 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35

R/. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

For your sake I bear insult, and shame covers my face.

I have become an outcast to my brothers, a stranger to my children,

Because zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who blaspheme you fall upon me. **R/.**

I pray to you, O LORD, for the time of your favor, O God!

In your great kindness answer me with your constant help.

Answer me, O LORD, for bounteous is your kindness; in your great mercy turn toward me. **R/.**

"See, you lowly ones, and be glad; you who seek God, may your hearts revive!

For the LORD hears the poor, and his own who are in bonds he spurns not.

Let the heavens and the earth praise him, the seas and whatever moves in them!" **R/.**

Second Reading Page 74

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Romans 5:12-15

Brothers and sisters: Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned— for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come.

But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Page 74

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Matthew 10:26-33

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to the Twelve: "Fear no one. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted.

So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others

I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection on the Word:

With mass shootings and acts of domestic terrorism on the increase while the “war on terror” continues, we can identify all too easily with Jeremiah’s words: “Terror on every side!” (Jeremiah 20:10). Jeremiah himself continually felt threatened because he repeatedly condemned the unfaithful kings of Judah. Jeremiah constantly struggled with his calling. When even his friends turn against him, he succumbs to doubt and anger. Yet he perseveres in his mission. He convinces himself that with the LORD at his side his enemies will not win in the end. Just as God has rescued the poor and the persecuted, God will rescue him.

Both Jeremiah and the psalmist are subjected to abuse, even from those close to them. Jeremiah’s former friends “are on the watch for any misstep of mine” (Jeremiah 20:10). The psalmist has “become an outcast to my kin, a stranger to my mother’s children” (Psalm 69:9). In the end, both place their trust in the LORD. “Sing to the LORD . . . for he has rescued the life of the poor,” says Jeremiah (20:13). “I pray to you, O LORD . . . for the LORD hears the poor,” says the psalmist (69:14, 34). God’s mercy to the neediest gives them confidence.

Jeremiah pleads to God not just for deliverance, but retribution. “Let me witness the vengeance you take on them,” he prays (20:12). He wants to see his enemies hurt as badly as they’ve hurt him. Jesus wants his disciples to stay strong despite rejection and persecution. He assures them repeatedly, “Do not be afraid” (10:26, 28, 31). How can he say this? Because he knows his Father’s care exceeds any harm the world can inflict. This enables him to take up his cross when facing the ultimate persecution. May we be assured of God’s care through all our trials.

Question - When am I unwilling to stand up for what I believe? What fears prevent me from bringing my faith into the light?

Prayer of the Faithful:

We call to mind our needs, assured that God knows and cares for us and every single detail of our lives, right down to each hair on our heads.

- For the Church, that we may have the confidence to proclaim the Good News from the rooftops, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That all of us across this planet, our common home, may take the steps necessary to making the Earth a livable, bountiful, and beautiful home for generations to come, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all of our fathers and father figures, who have loved and guided us throughout our lives, those who are living and those who have passed on to eternal life, that they may always enjoy God’s loving care, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all who depend on the fruitfulness of the earth for their livelihood, that they may be blessed with good weather and a successful growing season this summer, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all of us in this faith community, that God may shelter us from all our fears and comfort us in our distress, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For what else should we pray? _____ let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, may your great care and compassion for your people inspire us to be generous with our care and compassion for all those in need. We make this prayer and all our prayers through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Communion RiteThe Lord's Prayer: Page 134

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Rite of Peace:

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion:

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son, we ask of your mercy, O Lord, that what we celebrate with constant devotion may be our sure pledge of redemption.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Concluding Rite:Final Blessing:

May the Lord bless us,  protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ! **Thanks be to God.**