

12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR



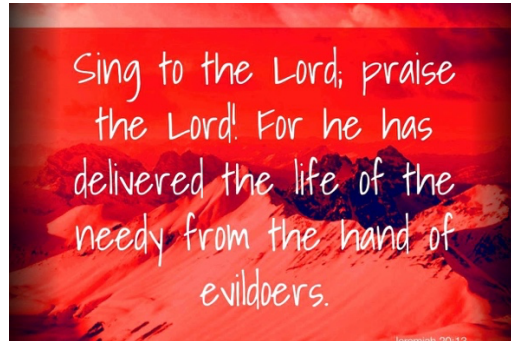
You are worth more than
many sparrows (Gospel)

'In your great love, answer me'

Because we live in anxious, troubling
times, where so many people around
the world are suffering intolerably,
today's readings can speak especially

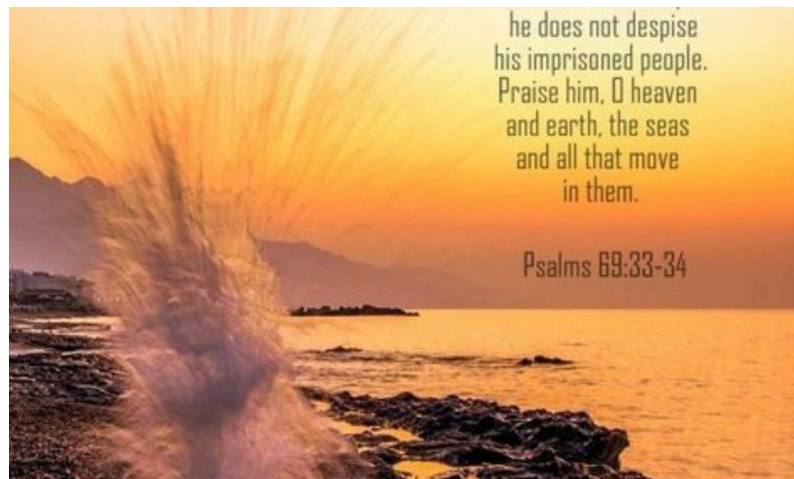
to us.

Jeremiah, in the **First Reading**, (Jeremiah 20:10-13) reflects on how his preaching
has brought him suffering and isolation. Yet 'the Lord is at my side, a mighty
hero.' And he ends with a hymn of praise.



O God of all hope,
when our lives come crashing
down around us, when not
one thing stays unhurt,
let us hold on to
just one hope: trust in your mercy.

The **Psalmist** cries out in anguish, but like Jeremiah, trusts that the
Lord will answer with 'help that never fails'.



St Paul considers how sin and death hold sway in the world, but Christ has gained for us the abundant free gift of divine grace. (Romans 5:12-15)

How much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many.

The gracious gift of grace,
the life of Jesus,

overflows
and roots out,
slashes sin to nothing,.

Lord Jesus, let us receive
your grace.

In the **Gospel** Matthew 10:26-33, Jesus twice tells his disciples, 'Do not be afraid'. Suffering will come their way, but the Father will always care tenderly for them.

***Even all the hairs of your head are counted.
So do not be afraid.***

God knows us better than we know ourselves.
Loves every fiber and freckle of us.
God counts us worthy
to spread the
Word.

But

We have no control of
our climate, wars,
violence and racism.

Jesus says to us:
“Do not be afraid.”

You be our nerve and our backbone.
Help us stand straight and proclaim your Word
in a loud voice to all the people,
in all the places, times
and events of our lives. (Annie Osdieck)

Reflection: Taking Life Seriously

In the [Gospel](#), Jesus encourages us as follows: *“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.”*

God pays attention to each of us. God knows us each in the tiniest detail!

A conclusion follows. See what you think of it:

Each of us is created to be a place where God's love can dwell.

It follows that we will never be truly human unless the greatest value in each of our lives is to receive the love of God and to carry it to the people around us. (John Foley SJ)

