

**FIRST READING**  
Jeremiah 38:4–6, 8–10

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

**T**he nation's leaders said to King Zedekiah,  
"Jeremiah should be put to death!  
He's saying things that are upsetting every soldier left in the city  
and everyone else as well.  
He isn't trying to help anyone.  
He just wants to cause trouble."

"Do what you want with him!" Zedekiah replied.  
"I can't stop you."

So they took Jeremiah to the open courtyard where prisoners  
were kept.  
Then they let him down with ropes  
into the cistern that belonged to Malchiah, the king's son.  
There was no water in the cistern,  
and Jeremiah sank down in the mud.

Jeremiah's friend Ebedmelech went out of the palace  
and reported to the king,  
"Your Majesty, those men were wrong  
to put Jeremiah the prophet down in a cistern.  
There's no more food in the city,  
and he will starve to death."

The king then told Ebedmelech the Ethiopian,  
"Take thirty men and pull Jeremiah out before he dies."

**The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
*Psalm 40:1, 2, 17*

**All:** *Lord, come to my aid!*

*I patiently waited, LORD,  
for you to hear my prayer.*

**All:** *Lord, come to my aid!*

*You listened and pulled me  
from a lonely pit  
full of mud and mire.  
You let me stand on a rock  
with my feet firm.*

**All:** *Lord, come to my aid!*

*I am poor and needy,  
but, LORD God,  
you care about me,  
and you come to my rescue.  
Please hurry and help.*

**All:** *Lord, come to my aid!*

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**SECOND READING**  
Hebrews 12:1–4

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

Brothers and sisters:  
Such a large crowd of witnesses is all around us!  
So we must get rid of everything that slows us down,  
especially the sin that just won't let go.  
And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us.

We must keep our eyes on Jesus,  
who leads us and makes our faith complete.  
He endured the shame of being nailed to a cross,  
because he knew that later on he would be glad he did.  
Now he is seated at the right side of God's throne!

So keep your mind on Jesus,  
who put up with many insults from sinners.  
Then you won't get discouraged and give up.

None of you have yet been hurt in your battle against sin.

**The word of the Lord.**

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**GOSPEL**  
Luke 12:49–53

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I came to set fire to the earth,  
and I surely wish it were already on fire!

“I am going to be put to a hard test.  
And I will have to suffer a lot of pain until it is over.

“Do you think that I came to bring peace to earth?

No indeed!

I came to make people choose sides.

A family of five will be divided,  
with two of them against the other three.

Fathers and sons will turn against one another,  
and mothers and daughters will do the same.

Mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law  
will also turn against each other.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**