



Liturgy Cycle A

Twelfth Sunday Of The Year **Witness Without Fear**

Introduction

Christ told his followers that he should not be afraid to declare themselves for him before other people. Are we sometimes afraid to speak and act in a Christian way? If so, why is this? Is it because we are unwilling to suffer for Christ or is it simply that we are afraid of what others will to say?

First Reading (Jeremiah 20:10-13)

The prophet is surrounded by terror, but he doesn't lose his nerve. He remains faithful to his mission because he knows that God is with him and will uphold him.

Second Reading (Romans 5:12-15)

St Paul draws a contrast between Christ and Adam. Sin came into the world through Adam. Grace came through Christ.

Gospel (Matthew 10: 26-33)

Christ exhorts his disciples to bear witness to the Gospel openly and fearlessly. If they do so he will claim them as his own at the final tribunal.

Prayer of the faithful

Let us pray that as followers of Christ we may have the courage to be witnesses in the world.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

That all Christians may give witness to Christ by resisting the world's temptations bravely and resolutely. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all in positions of authority: that they may witness to Christ by the concern they show for others, especially the weak who cannot speak for themselves. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



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For all those who are suffering because of their faith or because of their stand for truth and justice. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may be Christ's witnesses by making our homes places of love and understanding, and by doing our work faithfully and well. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Communion Reflection

Cardinal Newman once asked his congregation to ponder on what Christ meant to them, and what difference being a Christian made in the way they lived their daily lives.

He asked:

'Is it the case that there is nothing we resolve, nothing we do or do not do, nothing we avoid or choose, nothing we give up or take up which we would not resolve, or do, or omit, or avoid, or give up if Christ had not died and if heaven were not promised us?'

'I really fear, 'he went on, 'that most of those who call themselves Christians, would go on almost as they do, if they believed Christianity to be nothing more than a fable'.