



Liturgy Cycle A

Twenty-Second Sunday Of The Year The Cost Of Discipleship

Introduction

To follow Christ is to suffer. But there are also great rewards. We are weak and cowardly. Without God we can do nothing.

First reading (Jeremiah 20: 7-9)

Jeremiah has come to his wits' end. Speaking God's message to the people has brought him nothing but insults. Yet, somehow, he cannot remain silent.

Second Reading (Romans 12:1-2)

St Paul urges the Romans not to live like the people around them. Instead they should strive to do the will of God.

Gospel (Matthew 16: 21-27)

Jesus foretells his suffering and death at hands of the religious leaders. He tells his disciples that they too must be prepared to face hardship and suffering.

Prayer Of The Faithful

When we judge the success of our lives we frequently count on many things which before Christ counts nothing. Let us pray that we may have his mind.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all Christians: that in setting goals for their lives they may never forget the immortal words of Christ, 'What good will it do you if you gain the whole world but lose your soul?' Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all in positions of authority: that they may die to all forms of self-seeking. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



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**For all those who judge success by the standards and value of this world, and who have no thought for the world to come. Lord, hear us.
R: Lord, graciously hear us.**

That we may be happy to share in Christ's suffering and death, knowing that we will thus also share in his resurrection. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Communion Reflection

**It sometimes happened in prison
that you knew a man for several years,
thought of him as a refined and educated man,
and had a high regard for him.
But then one day you discover that behind the façade
lay such barbarism and cynicism
that you were revolted.**

**The opposite might also happened:
you thought of a man as a brute and not a man at all,
and despised him.
Then suddenly a chance moment
would reveal in his soul such wealth,
such feeling and heart,
that you would find it hard to believe
what you had seen and heard.**

**In each of us there are two people.
There is the animal self,
who is out only for his own happiness,
at the expense, if needs be, of the rest of the world.
And there is the spiritual self,
seeking for himself only the kind of happiness
that means happiness for other people too.**