



Liturgy Cycle C

## Twentieth Sunday Of The Year Fire Upon The Earth

### **Introduction**

Does the teaching of Christ ever disturb me? Does it cause me to question the way I'm living? Does it ever bring me into conflict with those who do not live by the Gospel? If it does not do so, it can only mean that I'm not really hearing it. Christ's teaching is like a sword that separates good from evil. It is like a fire that burns off the weeds but leaves the wheat. Let us reflect on this to see where we stand - with Christ or against him? Let us ask his forgiveness for our cowardice.

Lord Jesus, your teaching is like a sword that separates the true from the false.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your teaching is like a fire that separates the wheat from the chaff.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your teaching is like a great light that scatters the darkness of injustice and evil.

Lord, have mercy.

### **First Reading (Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10)**

This describes how the prophet Jeremiah was charged with treason and set upon by his enemies. Christians have always seen him as a figure of Christ.

### **Second Reading (Hebrews 12:1-4)**

The author exhorts his readers to persevere in their faith, regardless of cost. They must model themselves on Christ.

### **Gospel (Luke 12:49-53)**

The coming of Christ marks a time of division. People will be called on to declare their loyalties. This will result in disruption and dissension.

### **Prayer Of The Faithful**

Let us pray that the fire Jesus came to kindle may burn brightly in our lives and that we may enkindle it in the world.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Lord may purify all that is good in his followers, thus enabling them to be generous and courageous people. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



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**For all those leaders who are genuinely working for peace and for a more just world: that the Lord may uphold them when they suffer because of this. Let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all those who are neither hot nor cold, who always play it safe, never getting involved in issues of justice and truth. Let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That the Lord may help to separate us from all that is false and phoney, all that is shallow and unworthy, so that we may be better witnesses to him in the world. Let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

#### **Let us pray:**

**Lord, you came to set people's hearts on fire. You brought the warmth of the Father's love to those who lived in the coldness of rejection. You brought the sword of division wherever falsity reigned. Help us your followers to come out of the shadows and live in the sunshine of your Kingdom. For you live and reign for ever and ever.**

#### **Communion Reflection**

**There are two kinds of silence.**

**There is the silence of the graveyard.**

**Here silence speaks of one thing - death.**

**This silence tends to frighten and repel.**

**Then there is the silence of a spring evening.**

**Not a leaf stirs.**

**Not a sound is heard except the music of the birds.**

**Yet all things are awake, all things are growing.**

**This silence is mysterious and enchanting.**

**So there are two kinds of peace.**

**There is the peace of the swamp:**

**things look normal on the surface.**

**but its depths are full of rotten things.**

**Peace that is based on injustice is like that.**

**It is a false peace and Christ came to disrupt it.**

**But then there is true peace -**

**a peace in which all of God's children**

**have their basic rights respected,**

**and are able to live in freedom and dignity.**

**This is the peace Christ came to bring.**

**But peace like this doesn't happen.**

**It has to be made.**

**Sometimes the makers of it will be branded as troublemakers.**

**But Christ had another name for them-**

**He called them "children of God".**