

FIRST READING

Rom 8, 31b-39

Neither death nor life can ever come between us and the love of Christ

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Jesus Christ? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. As scripture promised: For your sake we are being massacred daily and reckoned as sheep for the slaughter. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height, or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 123, 2-3.4-5.7c-8

**℟: Our life, like a bird, has escaped
from the snare of the fowler.**

If the Lord had not been on our side
when men rose against us,
then would they have swallowed us alive
when their anger was kindled. **℟**

Then would the waters have engulfed us,
the torrent gone over us;
over our heads would have swept
the raging waters. **℟**

Indeed the snare has been broken
and we have escaped.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. **℟**

Alleluia
Mt 5, 10

℟ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right;
Theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **℟**

GOSPEL

Jn 17, 11-19

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to St. John.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

‘Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be like us. While I was with them, I kept those you had given me true to your name. I have watched over them and not one is lost except the one who chose to be lost, and this was to fulfil the scriptures. But now I am coming to you and while still in the world I say these things to share my joy with them to the full.

I passed your word on to them, and the world hated them, because they belong to the world no more than I belong to the world. I am not asking you to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world anymore than I belong to the world.

Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world, and for their sake I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated in the truth’.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Prayers of the Faithful

We ask of the Lord, with faith and trust, that our lives may be a generous offering to the service of our sisters and brothers:

℟. Father, listen to the prayer of your children.

1. For the whole Church present throughout the world, that she may be an authentic sign of unity and reconciliation. *℟*
2. For our Congregation, that the Lord send new vocations who know how to offer their life with generosity and thus bring the Good News to the whole world. *℟*
3. That the death of Blessed Philip of Jesus Munárriz and companions may be a seed that engenders new daughters and sons for the Gospel. *℟*
4. That we may be faithful servants of the Word and that, like Mary, we may assiduously meditate on it and keep it in our heart. *℟*
5. That the youth who decide to follow Jesus in the style of Claret may be firm in their vocational decision. *℟*
6. That our sick brothers endure their infirmity and pain with fortitude, knowing that with our weakness we share in the passion of Christ. *℟*

Pour out your Spirit on us, O Lord, so that like your sons, Blessed Philip of Jesus Munárriz and companions who gave their lives by the shedding of their blood, we may spend our lives announcing the Gospel throughout the world. Through Christ our Lord.