



CELEBRATING AT HOME

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Prophet's anguish (Luke 12:49-53)



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Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church
in this moment of prayer.**

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,

you are the faithfulness of God.

Lord Jesus,

you are the Word of truth.

Lord Jesus,

you are the Light of our lives.

Scripture Reading (Luke 12:49-53)

Jesus said to the disciples: I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

Reflection - *The Prophet's anguish*

Sometimes we can be overwhelmed by life. Feelings of fear, uncertainty and anxiety bubble away beneath the surface. Sometimes, those feelings reach the surface in an explosion of words and actions.

In this Gospel passage we encounter the startling image of Jesus in distress and anguish over his mission and what he is yet to face. His statement that he, the Prince of Peace, has not come to bring peace, but division, is confronting.

Right at the beginning of this passage, Jesus says he has come to bring fire to the earth and wishes it were blazing already. The 'fire' Jesus talks about is the fire of the Holy Spirit; the fire that melts away all that is not of God. But the Holy Spirit won't be given until after Jesus has faced and endured his destiny (passion and death) in Jerusalem. Perhaps we, who now live with the presence of the Spirit, need to ask, 'What has yet to be melted away so that only the real presence of God remains in us, purified of greed, ambition, selfishness, and so on? We could also ask, 'Where is the passion of God in my life?'

Jesus also speaks about a 'baptism' he must yet receive. It is not the sacrament of baptism he means. 'Baptism' was a biblical word used to describe turbulent and potentially overwhelming events which, like a roiling sea, threaten to engulf us. Again, it is a reference to his approaching suffering and death. Jesus is distressed and clearly wishes it was already over.

Following from last Sunday's Gospel, the disciple is called not only to stand ready and stay faithful to his employment (call), but also to stand firm in the face of opposition. Peace is not to be won at any price (e.g. compromising God's word).

Christians should never expect that discipleship makes life easy. Far from delivering us from the difficulties of life, our discipleship is more inclined to plunge us into the difficult and confronting issues which affect us and those around us. There will be division and discord an account of the Word that is preached and the values that we hold - sometimes even among those who are closest to us.

To share Jesus' baptism is to share with him in his passion and resurrection. It carries significant responsibilities (remaining faithful to God's word) and sometimes means that we are misunderstood or even punished for meeting those responsibilities.

To follow Jesus is to speak God's word, in what we say and in our actions.

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Prayers of Intercession

Lord, may your whole Church work for justice,
and peace among the peoples of the earth.

Strengthen our hearts
**when faithfulness to your Son
brings discord and dissension.**

May we find strength in the Word
and nourishment in the Eucharist.

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Closing Prayer

God, in whose image we are made,
you welcome and provide for us all.
May your Spirit at work in us
bring us to new life in you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

May the blessing of God be among us,
and remain with us for ever.
Amen.



Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when many cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family at this time.



The Carmelites
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