**Sunday, June 21, 2020
3rd Sunday after Pentecost**

### **First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13**

*(Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God’s hands.)*

 7O Lord, you have enticed me,
  and I was enticed;
 you have overpowered me,
  and you have prevailed.
 I have become a laughingstock all day long;
  everyone mocks me.
 8For whenever I speak, I must cry out,
  I must shout, “Violence and destruction!”
 For the word of the Lord has become for me
  a reproach and derision all day long.
 9If I say, “I will not mention him,
  or speak any more in his name,”
 then within me there is something like a burning fire
  shut up in my bones;
 I am weary with holding it in,
  and I cannot.
 10For I hear many whispering:
  “Terror is all around!
 Denounce him! Let us denounce him!”
  All my close friends
  are watching for me to stumble.
 “Perhaps he can be enticed,
  and we can prevail against him,
  and take our revenge on him.”
 11But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior;
  therefore my persecutors will stumble,
  and they will not prevail.
 They will be greatly shamed,
  for they will not succeed.
 Their eternal dishonor
  will never be forgotten.
 12O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous,
  you see the heart and the mind;
 let me see your retribution upon them,
  for to you I have committed my cause.

 13Sing to the Lord;
  praise the Lord!
 For he has delivered the life of the needy
  from the hands of evildoers.

### **Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11**

*(In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ’s death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.)*

1bShould we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? 2By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? 3Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
  5For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. 7For whoever has died is freed from sin. 8But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

### **Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39**

*(Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.)*

[Jesus said to the twelve:] 24“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; 25it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!
  26“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. 27What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. 28Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30And even the hairs of your head are all counted. 31So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.
  32“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; 33but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.
  34“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.
 35For I have come to set a man against his father,
 and a daughter against her mother,
 and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
 36and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.
37Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; 38and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”