

Summary of the readings:

First Reading – Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10: The princes accused Jeremiah of demoralizing the people and threw him into a muddy cistern. Ebed-melech convinced the king to rescue Jeremiah before he died of starvation.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 40: I waited for the LORD, and He saved me. He set my feet on a rock, gave me a new song, and is my help and deliverer.

Second Reading – Hebrews 12:1-4: We must cast off sin and run our race with endurance, focusing on Jesus who endured the cross and opposition, so we do not lose heart.

Gospel – Luke 12:49-53: Jesus tells His disciples that He came to bring fire and division, not peace. Families will be divided because of Him, with conflicts even among close relatives.

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"THE FIRE OF THE SPIRIT, FAITH AND LOVE"

The appearance of Jesus revealed the dark spots in human life with the light of God's Word. That light dazzled those who were accustomed to darkness and only wanted to be safe, but that light was necessary to initiate human advancement. Thanks to that, people saw their mistakes. And only when they knew their mistakes could they know how to correct them.

That is the content of the message of today's Gospel, when Jesus affirmed His mission to bring fire to the world and create a confrontation between those who choose God and those who follow the world.

1. Jesus' mission

* Bring fire to the world and hope it will burn.

According to the Bible, fire here can be understood as: Judgment, Spirit, faith and love.

Judgment: The coming of Jesus by its very nature signifies a judgment of the world between merit and sin, between good and evil. This also signifies the purification of those who are faithful to God (see Lv 10:2 and Lk 3:9).

The Spirit: Sanctifies and empowers the disciples and all believers, so that they may boldly preach the Gospel (see Acts 2:3-19).

Faith: The flame of Faith needs to be kindled in everyone and shine before the world.

Charity: The flame of love or the fire of love, which is the Love in the Sacred Heart of God, is poured out upon us and from there we also know how to live in charity with everyone.

In short: God desires that the flame of the Spirit, Faith and Love be spread throughout the world.

* The baptism that Jesus underwent.

The Baptism that the Lord had to undergo and hoped to complete was the Passion of Jesus, because this is the culmination of the mission of salvation. When we, the believers, receive Baptism, we are immersed in the death of Christ, which means we must die to sin, so that together with Christ we can put on a new person - the Resurrected person. That is, we must abandon all sinful acts and live a righteous life.

2. The choice of the disciples following the Lord

"Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? I tell you: No, but division..."

It sounds paradoxical, because from the day of the Annunciation, the Angel of the Lord sang: "Peace on earth to people of good will". However, it is necessary to understand that peace here is inner peace and people of good will always find inner peace in the Lord. And division here represents a choice for the disciples. Those who dare to live and act according to the way of Jesus are often considered foolish, stupid, crazy, and even hated or persecuted in all kinds of ways.

Disciples must be ready to share the suffering that Jesus endured. Because in reality there will be divisions within families: in the same house there will be those who believe in God and those who do not, those who support and those who oppose. But those who persevere to the end will be saved.

The struggle and division occur within each individual and the whole society. There are those who will stand up against a salvation that they consider negative, inferior, and 'the opium of the masses'. The Gospel therefore does not allow for a peaceful existence.

Peace according to the way of Jesus is the unity that comes from everyone following the one will of God. To have this peace, people must have the courage to step out of the darkness of evil to come to their brothers, dare to say "no" to temptation, dare to go against the current of lowly tendencies. Jesus comes as a fire to create that sky of light for us.

Lord Jesus, to follow you, we are torn between believing or not believing, choosing you or choosing the world, choosing to sacrifice or give up or compromise our feelings, pleasures, fame and power. Please help us to be ready to overcome everything to choose you as our inheritance. Amen.