

## Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 15:15–21

- <sup>15</sup> O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and take vengeance for me on my persecutors.  
In your forbearance take me not away;  
know that for your sake I bear reproach.
- <sup>16</sup> Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart,  
for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.
- <sup>17</sup> I did not sit in the company of revelers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
I sat alone, because your hand was upon  
me,  
for you had filled me with indignation.
- <sup>18</sup> Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?  
Will you be to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail?
- <sup>19</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD:  
“If you return, I will restore you,  
and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious, and not what  
is worthless,  
you shall be as my mouth.  
They shall turn to you,  
but you shall not turn to them.”
- <sup>20</sup> And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
declares the LORD.
- <sup>21</sup> I will deliver you out of the hand of the  
wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the  
ruthless.”

## Epistle: Romans 12:9–21

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil;  
hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Love one another  
with brotherly affection. Outdo one another  
in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not be slothful in zeal,

be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in  
hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in  
prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints  
and seek to show hospitality.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and  
do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who  
rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live  
in harmony with one another. Do not be  
haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never  
be conceited. <sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil, but  
give thought to do what is honorable in the  
sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If possible, so far as it depends on  
you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never  
avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath  
of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine,  
I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>20</sup>To the contrary,  
“if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is  
thirsty, give him something to drink; for by  
so doing you will heap burning coals on his  
head.” <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but over-  
come evil with good.

## Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:21–28

<sup>21</sup>From that time Jesus began to show his  
disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and  
suffer many things from the elders and chief  
priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the  
third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside  
and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it  
from you, Lord! This shall never happen to  
you.” <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, “Get  
behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to  
me. For you are not setting your mind on the  
things of God, but on the things of man.”

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone  
would come after me, let him deny himself  
and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For  
whoever would save his life will lose it, but  
whoever loses his life for my sake will find  
it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit a man if he gains  
the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what  
shall a man give in return for his life? <sup>27</sup>For the  
Son of Man is going to come with his angels in  
the glory of his Father, and then he will repay  
each person according to what he has done.  
<sup>28</sup>Truly, I say to you, there are some standing  
here who will not taste death until they see  
the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

**About the Cover:** The people of Judah did not want to hear the Lord’s Word through Jeremiah. Like a journey through a dry valley, Jeremiah bore the reproach of God’s people for speaking the truth. Yet he was sustained by the Lord. God is at work to sustain the one who speaks His true Law and bring the one who hears it to repentance. In all things, God is leading His people to Christ, the one who bore the reproach of the world on the cross and, above all, won for us forgiveness, life, and salvation.

