

## **A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah**

Jeremiah said:

“I hear the whisperings of many:

‘Terror on every side!

Denounce! let us denounce him!’

All those who were my friends

are on the watch for any misstep of mine.

‘Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail,

and take our vengeance on him.’

But the Lord is with me, like a mighty champion:

my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph.

In their failure they will be put to utter shame,

to lasting, unforgettable confusion.

O Lord of hosts, you who test the just,

who probe mind and heart,

let me witness the vengeance you take on them,

for to you I have entrusted my cause.

Sing to the Lord,

praise the Lord,

for he has rescued the life of the poor

from the power of the wicked!”

**The Word of the Lord!**

## **A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

Brothers and sisters:

Through one man sin entered the world,  
and through sin, death,  
and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned —  
for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world,  
though sin is not accounted when there is no law.

But death reigned from Adam to Moses,  
even over those who did not sin  
after the pattern of the trespass of Adam,  
who is the type of the one who was to come.

But the gift is not like the transgression.  
For if by the transgression of the one the many died,  
how much more did the grace of God  
and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ  
overflow for the many.

**The Word of the Lord!**