



SATURDAY MARCH 28

LENTEN WEEKDAY

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

(Cf. Psalm 18 [17]:5, 7)

The waves of death rose
about me; the pains of the
netherworld surrounded me.
In my anguish I called to
the Lord, and from his holy
temple he heard my voice.

COLLECT

May the working of your
mercy, O Lord, we pray,
direct our hearts aright,
for without your grace
we cannot find favor in
your sight.
Through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with
you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

READING *(Jeremiah 11:18-20)*

I knew their plot because the
LORD informed me; at that
time you, O LORD, showed me
their doings.

Yet I, like a trusting lamb led
to slaughter, had not realized
that they were hatching plots
against me: "Let us destroy the
tree in its vigor; let us cut him
off from the land of the living,
so that his name will be spo-
ken no more."

But, you, O LORD of hosts,
O just Judge,
searcher of mind
and heart,
Let me witness the
vengeance you
take on them,
for to you I have
entrusted my cause!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Psalm 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12)

**R: O Lord, my God, in you I take
refuge.**

O LORD, my God, in you

I take refuge;
 save me from all my
 pursuers and rescue me,
 Lest I become like
 the lion's prey,
 to be torn to pieces, with
 no one to rescue me. **R**
 Do me justice, O LORD,
 because I am just,
 and because of the
 innocence that is mine.
 Let the malice of the wicked
 come to an end,
 but sustain the just,
 O searcher of heart and
 soul, O just God. **R**
 A shield before me is God,
 who saves the
 upright of heart;
 A just judge is God,
 a God who punishes
 day by day. **R**

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

(See Luke 8:15)

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
 King of endless glory!** Blessed are
 they who have kept the word

with a generous heart and
 yield a harvest through perse-
 verance. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus
 Christ, King of endless glory!**

GOSPEL (John 7:40-53)

Some in the crowd who
 heard these words of
 Jesus said, "This is truly
 the Prophet." Others said,
 "This is the Christ." But oth-
 ers said, "The Christ will not
 come from Galilee, will he?
 Does not Scripture say that the
 Christ will be of David's fam-
 ily and come from Bethlehem,
 the village where David lived?"
 So a division occurred in the
 crowd because of him. Some
 of them even wanted to arrest
 him, but no one laid hands
 on him.

So the guards went to the
 chief priests and Pharisees,
 who asked them, "Why did
 you not bring him?" The
 guards answered, "Never
 before has anyone spoken like

this man.” So the Pharisees answered them, “Have you also been deceived? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, which does not know the law, is accursed.” Nicodemus, one of their members who had come to him earlier, said to them, “Does our law condemn a man before it first hears him and finds out what he is doing?” They

answered and said to him, “You are not from Galilee also, are you? Look and see that no prophet arises from Galilee.”

Then each went to his own house.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, we pray,
with these oblations you
receive from our hands,
and, even when our wills are
defiant,

Today's Good News

“Like a trusting lamb led to slaughter...” (Jeremiah 11:19). »

Unfortunately, I have known some people who have had their trust in others shaken to its core: a married woman with an infant is left by her spouse and left with no income; a child is physically abused; elderly parents are taken advantage of by family members. Often these incidents take the victims completely by surprise. Trust is fragile, and it is damaged on almost every level. It's tempting to blame God in moments like this. “What did I do to deserve this?” “Why didn't you help?” The safety net is gone. Finding it again will be very difficult, but it is there. It is always there in good times and bad, deep in the recesses of our hearts. In time, with prayer and patience and understanding, we will feel God's hand. And the trust...it too will return. **PAUL PENNICK**

constrain them mercifully to
turn to you.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

(Cf. 1 Peter 1:18-19)

By the precious Blood of
Christ, the Blood of a spotless
and unblemished Lamb, we
have been redeemed.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May your holy gifts purify us,

O Lord, we pray,

and by their working render
us fully pleasing to you.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE *(Optional)*

Look upon your people,

O Lord,

and, as they draw near to the
coming festivities,

bestow upon them
abundance of heavenly
grace,

that, helped by the
consolations of this world,
they may be impelled more
readily

towards higher goods that
cannot be seen.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The guards in today's gospel experienced the power of Jesus' person and his words.

- **Which words of Jesus have been most powerful for me this Lent?**

Jesus, help me to hear...