

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Pause – and look up at the assembly

Jeremiah cried out:  
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.”  
But 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 dishonour  
will never be forgotten.  
O 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.  
Sing to the Lord;  
praise the Lord!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hands of evildoers.



PAUSE for **THREE** seconds  
then look up at the people  
and say SLOWLY:

The WORD of the LORD.

*Thanks be to God.*

## SECOND READING – A 12

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Pause – and look up at the assembly

Brothers and sisters:

Just as sin came into the world through one man,  
and death came through sin,  
so death spread to all because all have sinned.

Sin was indeed in the world before the law,  
but sin is not reckoned when there is no law.

Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses,  
even over those whose sins were not like the disobedience of Adam,  
who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass.

For if the many died through the one man's trespass,  
much more surely have the grace of God  
and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ,  
abounded for the many.



PAUSE for **THREE** seconds  
then look up at the people  
and say SLOWLY:

The WORD of the LORD.

*Thanks be to God.*

## GOSPEL READING – A 12

The Lord be with you.

*And with your spirit.*

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

*Glory to you, O Lord*

Jesus said to his Apostles:

“Fear no one;  
for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered,  
and nothing secret that will not become known.  
What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light;  
and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.  
Do not fear those who kill the body  
but cannot kill the soul;  
rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.  
Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?  
Yet not one of them will fall to the ground  
apart from your Father.  
And even the hairs of your head are all counted.  
So do not be afraid;  
you are of more value than many sparrows.  
Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before humans,  
I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven;  
but whoever denies me before humans,  
I also will deny before my Father in heaven.”



The GOSPEL of the LORD.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

## SCRIPTURES IN DEPTH