

# 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year C

*There are no more distinctions  
between Jew and Greek,  
slave and free, male and female,  
but all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Ga 3:28)*



## First Reading

*Zechariah 12:10-11*

It is the Lord who speaks: "Over the House of David and the citizens of Jerusalem I will pour out a spirit of kindness and prayer. They will look on the one whom they have pierced; they will mourn for him as for an only son, and weep for him as people weep for a first-born child. When that day comes, there will be great mourning in Judah, like the mourning of Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo."

## Second Reading

*Galatians 3:26-29*

You are, all of you, children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. All baptised in Christ, you have all clothed yourselves in Christ, and there are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus. Merely by belonging to Christ you are the posterity of Abraham, the heirs he was promised.

One day when Jesus was praying alone in the presence of his disciples he put this question to them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" And they answered, "John the Baptist; others Elijah; and others say one of the ancient prophets come back to life." "But you", he said "who do you say I am?" It was Peter who spoke up. "The Christ of God" he said. But he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone anything about this.

"The Son of Man" he said "is destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes and to be put to death, and to be raised up on the third day."

Then to all he said, "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross every day and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, that man will save it."

## Meditation

*Throughout Jesus' ministry the crowd asked themselves, "Who is he? A hero from the past?" Questioned by Jesus, Peter opens himself to faith, "You are the Messiah of God". Jesus immediately warns them that his future is also theirs. In following him to Jerusalem, every believer takes the risk of suffering day after day.*

*"But you, who do you say that I am?" "You are the Lord whom we confess in the poverty of our faith." Our answer is shaped by the lives of believers who have gone before us.*

*Among the revealing encounters through which we approach Jesus, there is the irreplaceable encounter with the gospels. They present him to us as a man of the first century, as one destined to be crucified and raised up. These images are mediated to us through the first generations of Christians. Prayerful listening allows us to catch something of his mystery. That is what invites us to live Jesus Christ in the present, to run our race "to grasp the prize if possible, since I have been grasped by Christ Jesus" (Ph 3:12).*