

## Nicodemus, A Teacher of Israel, Martyr

Wed. Aug 2 transferred from Thursday, August 3, 2017

### Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who kindled the flame of your love in the heart of your holy martyr Nicodemus: Grant to us, your humble servants, a like faith and power of love, that we who rejoice in her triumph may profit by her example; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### First Reading

Jeremiah 15:15-21

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. 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. I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. 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, says the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

### Psalm 124

- 1 If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
***let Israel now say;***
- 2 If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
***when enemies rose up against us;***
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
***in their fierce anger toward us;***
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*  
***and the torrent gone over us;***

- 5 Then would the raging waters \*  
***have gone right over us.***
- 6 Blessed be the LORD! \*  
***he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.***
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; \*  
***the snare is broken, and we have escaped.***
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, \*  
***the maker of heaven and earth.***

## Second Reading

1 Peter 4:12-19

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?" Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            ***Thanks be to God.***

## Holy Gospel

Mark 8:34-38

*Deacon*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
*People*            ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Jesus called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***