

January 12 Thursday

Reading 1 HEB 3:7-14

The Holy Spirit says: Oh, that today you would hear his voice, "Harden not your hearts as at the rebellion in the day of testing in the desert, where your ancestors tested and tried me and saw my works for forty years. Because of this I was provoked with that generation and I said, 'They have always been of erring heart, and they do not know my ways.' As I swore in my wrath, so as to forsake the living God. Encourage yourselves daily while it is still "today," so that none of you may grow hardened by the deceit of sin. We have become partners of Christ if only we hold the beginning of the reality firm until the end.' They shall not enter into my rest.'" Take care, brothers and sisters, that none of you may have an evil and unfaithful heart,

Responsorial Psalm PS 95:6-7C, 8-9, 10-11

R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.
For he is our God,

and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:

"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as in the day of Massah in the desert,
Where your fathers tempted me;
they tested me though they had seen my works."

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Forty years I was wearied of that generation;
I said: "This people's heart goes astray,
they do not know my ways."

Therefore I swore in my anger:

"They shall never enter my rest."

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Alleluia MT 4:23

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus preached the Gospel of the Kingdom
and cured every disease among the people.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel MK 1:40-45

A leper came to him and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched the leper, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. Then he said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

Reflection:

There was man who underwent surgery in a catholic hospital. He was asked by Rev. Sister whether he had insurance to cover the expenses. He replied "No" do you have cash to pay? The sister asked and the reply was negative. Sister asked whether he had any relative who could pay. He replied that he had a spinster sister who was a catholic nun. The sister was perturbed by the word spinster and said, do not you know that nuns are not spinsters, but spouses of Jesus? On hearing this, the patient said, if that is the case, please pass on the bills to my brother-in-law" our concern is not whether Jesus is a brother or brother -in -law, but that Jesus heals. Physical ailments have their beginning in the hardness of the heart. The Israelites turned blind and deaf toward the providence of God who provided for them for forty years. That why pestilence killed them. It is sin that causes sickness. A bodily disease may after all be but a symptom of some ailment in the spiritual part. Jesus waits for the plea. If you wish, make me clean. We shall invite Jesus joyfully to touch and heal us.