**THURSDAY JANUARY 20 – SECOND WEEK O.T. [C]**

**He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him. He had cured many and, as a result, those who had diseases were pressing upon him to touch him.**

**Wisdom attracts to itself for his beauty: Here is the song the Sirach raises to Wisdom: “Wisdom sings her own praises, before her own people she proclaims her glory; In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, in the presence of his hosts she declares her worth: "From the mouth of the Most High I came forth, and mistlike covered the earth. In the highest heavens did I dwell, my throne on a pillar of cloud. The vault of heaven I compassed alone, through the deep abyss I wandered. Over waves of the sea, over all the land, over every people and nation I held sway. Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose inheritance should I abide? "Then the Creator of all gave me his command, and he who formed me chose the spot for my tent, Saying, 'In Jacob make your dwelling, in Israel your inheritance.' Before all ages, in the beginning, he created me, and through all ages I shall not cease to be. In the holy tent I ministered before him, and in Zion I fixed my abode. Thus in the chosen city he has given me rest, in Jerusalem is my domain.**

**I have struck root among the glorious people, in the portion of the LORD, his heritage. "Like a cedar on Lebanon I am raised aloft, like a cypress on Mount Hermon, Like a palm tree in En-gedi, like a rosebush in Jericho, Like a fair olive tree in the field, like a plane tree growing beside the water. Like cinnamon, or fragrant balm, or precious myrrh, I give forth perfume; Like galbanum and onycha and sweet spices, like the odor of incense in the holy place. I spread out my branches like a terebinth, my branches so bright and so graceful. I bud forth delights like the vine, my blossoms become fruit fair and rich. Come to me, all you that yearn for me, and be filled with my fruits; You will remember me as sweeter than honey, better to have than the honeycomb. He who eats of me will hunger still, he who drinks of me will thirst for more; He who obeys me will not be put to shame, he who serves me will never fail."**

**Christ Jesus, eternal Wisdom of the Father in the unity and in the communion of the Holy Spirit, attracts the multitudes for his spiritual beauty. Jesus is eternal, divine and human Love. It is Word creating life where there is death, light where there are darkness, hope where there is desperation, grace where sin rules, mercy, forgiveness and reconciliation where there is repentance and humbleness of heart and of spirit; satiety where there is hunger, comfort and relief where there is tiredness and oppression, health where there is illness and infirmity. He is the man clothed with charity, mercy, light, truth, grace, eternal life, justice, most high holiness. He is the man in whose heart the heart of the Father lives and whose thought is entirely ruled by the wisdom and the intelligence of the Holy Spirit. This beauty cannot but attract. In his beauty, the souls immerse themselves and find what they seek. This is why He attracts. One goes to Him as empty and one comes back home as overflowing with every grace. Whoever goes to Him, yesterday as today as tomorrow, and immerses himself in his divine and human beauty becomes true man.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 3,7-12**

**Jesus withdrew toward the sea with his disciples. A large number of people (followed) from Galilee and from Judea. Hearing what he was doing, a large number of people came to him also from Jerusalem, from Idumea, from beyond the Jordan, and from the neighborhood of Tyre and Sidon. He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him. He had cured many and, as a result, those who had diseases were pressing upon him to touch him. And whenever unclean spirits saw him they would fall down before him and shout, "You are the Son of God." He warned them sternly not to make him known.**

**Here is how the song of the Sirach about Wisdom goes on: “All this is true of the book of the Most High's covenant, the law which Moses commanded us as an inheritance for the community of Jacob. It overflows, like the Pishon, with wisdom -  like the Tigris in the days of the new fruits. It runs over, like the Euphrates, with understanding, like the Jordan at harvest time. It sparkles like the Nile with knowledge, like the Gihon at vintage time. The first man never finished comprehending wisdom, nor will the last succeed in fathoming her. For deeper than the sea are her thoughts; her counsels, than the great abyss. Now I, like a rivulet from her stream, channeling the waters into a garden, Said to myself, "I will water my plants, my flower bed I will drench"; And suddenly this rivulet of mine became a river, then this stream of mine, a sea. Thus do I send my teachings forth shining like the dawn, to become known afar off. Thus do I pour out instruction like prophecy and bestow it on generations to come.” (Sir 24, 1-34) Christ Jesus is the Eternal Wisdom of the Father, who has made himself flesh and has come to dwell among us to immerse all of us in his love, in his light, in his eternal life. May the Mother of God help us so that we let ourselves be immersed in Him. Amen.**