

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

28th September 2026

First reading

Job 1:6-22

‘The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.’

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. The Lord said to Satan, ‘From where have you come?’ Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.’ And the Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?’ Then Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.’ And the Lord said to Satan, ‘Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.’ So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

Now there was a day when Job’s sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, and there came a messenger to Job and said, ‘The oxen were ploughing and the donkeys feeding beside them, and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.’ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, ‘The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you.’ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, ‘The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.’ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, ‘Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you.’

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshipped. And he said, ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.’

In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17(16):1. 2-3. 6-7. R6b

Turn your ear to me; hear my words.

O Lord, hear a cause that is just, pay heed to my cry.

Turn your ear to my prayer: no deceit is on my lips.

From you may my justice come forth. Your eyes discern what is upright.

Search my heart and visit me by night. Test me by fire, and you will find no wrong in me.

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God. Turn your ear to me; hear my words.

Display your merciful love, you who deliver from their foes those who trust in your right hand.

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 10:45

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Son of Man came to serve,

and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 9:46-50

‘He who is least among you all is the one who is great.’

At that time: An argument arose among the disciples as to which of them was the greatest. But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side and said to them, ‘Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among all of you is the one who is great.’

John answered, ‘Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.’ But Jesus said to him, ‘Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

In order to teach a life-lesson Jesus often used actions as well as words. His disciples were arguing about a very selfish question: Which of them was the greatest. It might have been about talent, family background, or even their closeness to Jesus. He needed to teach them what greatness really is, in the eyes of God.

The lesson began by putting a child beside him before he said a word. The child was no symbol of greatness in that world, but a symbol of weakness and vulnerability. Jesus identifies with the little ones, to whom the world gives no status. In wanting to be the greatest, the disciples were way off the mark. The point is that God’s values not those of the world. Like the rivalries of those disciples, we can sometimes be egotistic in our ambitions. We need to remember God’s values as made clear to us by his blessed Son.