

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

29th January 2026

First reading

2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29

‘Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house?’

After Nathan had spoken to David, the king went in and sat before the Lord and said, ‘Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord God. You have spoken also of your servant’s house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord God!

‘And you established for yourself your people Israel to be your people for ever. And you, O Lord, became their God. And now, O Lord God, confirm for ever the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken. And your name will be magnified for ever, saying, “The Lord of hosts is God over Israel”, and the house of your servant David will be established before you. For you, O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, “I will build you a house.” Therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. And now, O Lord God, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant. Now, therefore, may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue for ever before you. For you, O Lord God, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed for ever.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 132(131):1-2. 3-5. 11. 12. 13-14. R Luke 1:32b

The Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David.

O Lord, remember David
and all the hardships he endured,
the oath he swore to the Lord,
his vow to the Strong One of Jacob.
‘I will not enter the house where I dwell,
nor go to the bed where I rest;
I will give no sleep to my eyes,
to my eyelids I will give no slumber,
till I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling for the Strong One of Jacob.’

The Lord swore an oath to David;
he will not go back on his word:
‘A son, the fruit of your body,
will I set upon your throne.’
‘If your sons hold fast to my covenant,
and my decrees that I shall teach them,
their sons, in turn, shall sit
on your throne from age to age.’
For the Lord has chosen Sion;
he has desired it for his dwelling:
‘This is my resting place from age to age;
here have I desired to dwell.’

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 119(118):105

Alleluia, alleluia.

Your word is a lamp for my feet,
and a light for my path.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 4:21-25

‘A lamp brought in is to be put on a stand. The measure you use, it will be measured to you.’

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd, ‘Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.’ And he said to them, ‘Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

We are told not to hide the light of our faith, under a bushel or bucket. Rather, we are to show our faith, our relationship with Christ and the way we live our lives. On the other hand, we don’t make public displays of piety in order to win credit from others. Rather, we try to live by faith in order to give glory to God.

Today’s gospel invites us to ask, “For whose benefit do I do what I do? Is it for myself or the ones I serve?” Ultimately, do I try to do what God wants of me? The opening petitions of the Lord’s Prayer points us in the right direction, “Hallowed by your name, your kingdom come.”