

Reading for the Memorial of St Dominic

8th August 2026

First reading

Habakkuk 1:12-2:4

‘The righteous shall live by his faith.’

Are you not from everlasting, O Lord my God, my Holy One?

We shall not die.

O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgement, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof.

You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?

You make mankind like the fish of the sea, like crawling things that have no ruler.

He brings all of them up with a hook; he drags them out with his net;

he gathers them in his dragnet; so he rejoices and is glad.

Therefore he sacrifices to his net and makes offerings to his dragnet;

for by them he lives in luxury, and his food is rich.

Is he then to keep on emptying his net and mercilessly killing nations for ever?

I will take my stand at my watch-post and station myself on the tower,

and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

And the Lord answered me:

‘Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.

For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end — it will not lie.

If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

‘Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 9(9A):8-9. 10-11. 12-13. R11b

You will not forsake those who seek you, O Lord.

The Lord sits enthroned for ever; he has set up his throne for judgement.

He will judge the world with righteousness;

he will govern the peoples with equity.

For the oppressed, the Lord will be a stronghold, a stronghold in times of distress.

Those who know your name will trust you; you will not forsake those who seek you, O Lord.

Sing psalms to the Lord who dwells in Sion.

Tell his mighty works among the peoples,

for the Avenger of Blood has remembered them, has not forgotten the cry of the poor.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. 2 Timothy 1:10

Alleluia, alleluia.

Our Saviour Christ Jesus abolished death

and brought life to light through the gospel.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 17:14-20

‘If you have faith, nothing will be impossible for you.’

At that time: A man came up to Jesus and, kneeling before him, said, ‘Lord, have mercy on my son, for he has seizures and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.’ And Jesus answered, ‘O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.’ And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, ‘Why could we not cast it out?’ He said to them, ‘Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there”, and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

The gospel says that Jesus rebukes his disciples for their little faith. He doesn’t say that they have no faith but tells them that they have little faith. They had just failed in their efforts to do the work that Jesus had sent them to do, bringing healing to a sick child. Jesus attributes this failure to their little faith.

Many of us may find it easy to identify with the disciples. We think of ourselves as people of faith but we sense that our faith is not as strong as it could be. We don’t trust the Lord enough. We have that striking promise of Jesus in the gospel that if our faith was as small even as a mustard seed we could move mountains.

Jesus wanted his disciples to grow in their faith; it is what he wants for all of us. In response to that desire of Jesus for a stronger faith within us, we could make our own the prayer of the father of the sick child that we find in Mark’s version of this story, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.”