

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

8th July 2026

First reading

Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12

‘It is the time to seek the Lord.’

Israel is a luxuriant vine that yields its fruit.

The more his fruit increased, the more altars he built;

as his country improved, he improved his pillars.

Their heart is false; now they must bear their guilt.

The Lord will break down their altars and destroy their pillars.

For now they will say: ‘We have no king, for we do not fear the Lord;

and a king — what could he do for us?’

Samaria’s king shall perish like a twig on the face of the waters.

The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed.

Thorn and thistle shall grow up on their altars,

and they shall say to the mountains, ‘Cover us,’ and to the hills, ‘Fall on us.’

Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground,

for it is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 105(104):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. R4b

Constantly seek the face of the Lord.

or: Alleluia.

O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works!

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.

Turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

Remember the wonders he has done, his marvels and his words of judgement.

O children of Abraham, his servant, O descendants of the Jacob he chose,

he, the Lord, is our God; his judgements are in all the earth.

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia.

The kingdom of God is at hand;

repent and believe in the gospel.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 10:1-7

‘Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’

At that time: Jesus called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. The names of the twelve Apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, ‘Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ’

Short reflection on the reading for today

When Jesus sent his disciples out among the throng to help cure sickness and depression, they probably felt inadequate to deal with the tribulations they were expected to confront. However, God provided them with the tools and capabilities which were likely to be required.

Their names are still known – some of the most ordinary people of Galilee, a small place itself in a small country.

Our names are in that list too, in the mind of God and in the book of life. Called like them, we are partners with Jesus in the salvation of the world, in whatever corner of the globe we may find ourselves. In word and life we try to let others know that the kingdom of heaven and the love of God are very near.

The kingdom of heaven, or the reign of God, is near in the preaching and teaching of Jesus. It is near as something he brings, and as something we bring. We pray daily that his kingdom will come. How can we bring this reign of God alive in the world today? In the world where evil can easily reign, the reign of God comes only through people who believe strongly in the goodness of God's message in Jesus.

As we read this list of the apostles, think of your name among them. Pray that we may accept the trust that Jesus has in us.