

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

30th July 2026

First reading

Jeremiah 18:1-6

‘Like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand.’

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ‘Arise, and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.’ So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: ‘O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done?’ declares the Lord. Behold, like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 146(145):2a-c. 2d-4. 5-6. R5a

Blessed is he who is helped by Jacob’s God.

or: Alleluia.

My soul, give praise to the Lord;

I will praise the Lord all my life, sing praise to my God while I live.

Put no trust in princes, or anyone who cannot save.

Take their breath, they return to the earth, and their plans that day come to nothing.

Blessed is he who is helped by Jacob’s God, whose hope is in the Lord his God,

who made the heavens and the earth, the seas and all they contain, who preserves fidelity for ever.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Acts 16:14b

Alleluia, alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord,

that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 13:47-53

‘They sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad.’

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd, ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

‘Have you understood all these things?’ They said to him, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there.

Short reflection on the reading for today

The parable of the dragnet cast into the sea suggests that at the end of time there will be a separation out of the good from the wicked. However, this is God’s work and it will happen at the end of time. We often make the mistake of thinking that it is our work and that it should happen in the course of time. We can

be prone to deciding who is good and who is bad here and now and behaving in the light of that judgement. Yet, when we make such a judgement, we are prone to getting it wrong. We see the good in ourselves more easily than the good in others and the bad in others more easily than the bad in ourselves. We also fail to appreciate that people can change for the better, with God's help.

The image of God as the potter in today's reading suggests that God can take what comes out wrong in our lives and reshape it into something good. We are all a work in progress. God may have begun a good work in us but God has yet to bring it to completion. Judgement belongs to God at the end of time, and the judging God is also the creator God who is constantly at work to bring good out of evil and new life out of what has come out wrong. As humans, we should be very slow to take on God's work of separating the good from the evil. As Paul says in his first letter to the Corinthians, 'Do not pronounce judgement before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness.'