

## Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

June 17th 2026

### First reading

**2 Kings 2:1, 6-14**

**‘Behold, chariots of fire and Elijah went up into heaven.’**

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

When they came to Jericho Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Please stay here, for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.’ But he said, ‘As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.’ And Elisha said, ‘Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.’ And he said, ‘You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.’ And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, ‘My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!’ And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, ‘Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?’ And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 31(30):20. 21. 24. R25**

*Let your heart take courage, all who hope in the Lord.*

How great is the goodness, Lord,

that you keep for those who fear you,

that you show to those who trust you in the sight of the children of Adam.

You hide them in the shelter of your presence,

secure from human scheming;

you keep them safe within your tent from disputing tongues.

Love the Lord, all you his saints.

The Lord guards the faithful.

But the Lord will repay to the full

the one who acts with pride.

### Gospel Acclamation

**John 14:23**

Alleluia, alleluia.

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord,

and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

Alleluia.

## **Gospel**

### **Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18**

#### **‘Your Father who sees in secret will reward you.’**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Beware of practising your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

‘Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.’

#### **Short reflection on the reading for today**

Today let us think about people who have shaped our own life and led us to understand our own mission in the faith. We thank God for them and their good influence on us. If we are open, God may show us how to continue their legacy and live with a double portion of their spirit. How might we pass on the faith to the next generation?

Jesus urges us not to parade our good deeds before others to attract their notice. Earlier in that sermon, he seems to say the very opposite, “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and give glory to your Father in heaven.” While there is surely a contrast between those two ideals, there is a real value in each of them. We are not meant to hide the light of our faith, keeping it under a bushel by seeming to be agnostic and non-committal. Rather, we should somehow show our love for the Lord by the way we live and the choices we make.

On the other hand, we need prudence and reserve in speaking about our beliefs. We don’t publicly proclaim our religious views to win a name for ourselves, or to win approval from others. Rather, anything we say or do should be with due humility and for the glory of God. The Lord’s Prayer shows us the priority, “Hallowed by your name, your kingdom come.”