

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

29th October 2026

First reading

Ephesians 6:10-20

‘Take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able, having done all, to stand firm.’

Brothers and Sisters: Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand, therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144(143):1. 2. 9-10. R1a

Blest be the Lord, my rock.

Blest be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for battle, my fingers for war.

He is my merciful love, my fortress; he is my stronghold, my saviour,
my shield in whom I take refuge. He brings peoples under my rule.

To you, O God, will I sing a new song; I will play on the ten-stringed harp

to you who give kings their victory, who redeemed David, your servant, from the evil sword.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf Luke 19:38; 2:14

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord,
peace on earth and glory in the highest.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 13:31-35

‘It cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’

On that day: Some Pharisees came and said to him, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’ And he said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox, “Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.” O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” ’

Short reflection on the reading for today

Jesus was clearly a keen observer of nature and of the animal world. He would have often seen hens clucking about in the village, gathering their brood and watching over them. He too was bent on gathering people. He wanted to form them into a united community, including people who would not normally relate in friendship, Jew, Samaritan and Gentile, rich and poor, law abiding and sinner, male and female.

He laments the fact that so many were not willing to be gathered by him. He longed to gather them but he was powerless before the mystery of human freedom. He could call and invite and plead, but could not coerce.

When his desire to save people met with murderous resistance, and they nailed him to the cross, he continued to call and to invite, calling them still. "When I am raised up... I will draw all people to myself." After the resurrection, his work of calling and inviting and gathering continues to this day. He never ceases his work of gathering people for the kingdom of God and he continues to await our response. Various influences can block us from responding to the Lord's call. To resist such forces we need the strength of grace, the armour of God. For this, says Ephesians, we should pray in the Spirit at all times.