Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

5th November 2026

First reading

Philippians 3:3-8a

'Whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.'

Brothers and Sisters: We are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh — though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the Church; as to righteousness under the Law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 105(104):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. ℟4b

Let the hearts that seek the Lord *rejoice.*
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 **Matthew 11:28**

Alleluia, alleluia.
Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, says the Lord,
and I will give you rest.
Alleluia.

Gospel **Luke 15:1-10**

'There will be joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.'

At that time: The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

'Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'

Short reflection on the reading for today

Many of the memorable sayings of Jesus were spoken at a dinner table. Both of today's parables describe the successful end of an anxious search [finding the lost sheep and the lost heirloom] and the person inviting their neighbours to share their joy. Each of them says 'Rejoice with me!' and according to Jesus their happiness reflects God's own joy in heaven over one repentant sinner who returns to the right path. Part of resembles the ninety-nine sheep that are quietly grazing, but perhaps in each of us there's a spark of the black sheep that will not live under restraint. Much in us has "no need to repent" even if we have some element of the unpredictable and the unruly. It is important to let the Lord find us, bring us to repentance, and return us to his flock.

But are we ready and willing to light a lamp and sweep the house of our existence diligently, till we discover what in us needs healing? With this in mind let's also recall the warning against judging our neighbour. We judge from what is before our eyes, but that may not be the full story. Other people too are being sought with love, by the grace of God, who never gives up on finding the lost sheep or the lost coin.

As baptised Christians we all have some share in the work of our Good Shepherd who never ceases to seek the lost ones that he came to save.