

Reading for the Memorial of St Gregory the Great

3rd September 2026

First reading

1 Corinthians 3:18-23

‘All are yours, and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.’

Brothers and Sisters: Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, ‘He catches the wise in their craftiness’, and again, ‘The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.’ So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or the present or the future — all are yours, and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. R cf. 6

The Lord’s is the earth and its fullness.

The Lord’s is the earth and its fullness, the world, and those who dwell in it.

It is he who set it on the seas; on the rivers he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place?

The clean of hands and pure of heart, whose soul is not set on vain things.

Blessings from the Lord shall he receive, and right reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the people who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:19

Alleluia, alleluia.

Follow me, says the Lord,

and I will make you fishers of men.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 5:1-11

‘They left everything and followed him.’

At that time: The crowd was pressing in on Jesus to hear the word of God. He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.’ And Simon answered, ‘Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.’ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.’ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.’ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Short reflection on the reading for today

Most of us will have tasted the experience of failure in one shape or form. We may have failed to live up to the values and the goals that we had set ourselves; some enterprise or some initiative that we had invested in may have come to nothing; some relationship that was important to us may have slipped away from us. All such experiences can leave us feeling disheartened.

Such a move from failure to success is told in the gospel. We can hear Peter's discouragement when he mutters, 'we worked all night and caught nothing.' Then after the miraculous haul of fish he shouts out, 'leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' Their initial failure does not have the last word. Jesus changed their fruitless labour into a marvellous catch; and he draws the reluctant Peter into his own work of gathering people into God's kingdom.

He is constantly at work in all kinds of unlikely people and situations, changing failure into success. For this to happen in our own lives, we must put our trust in him. He wants us to keep launching out into deep water in response and help him let down the net of his saving grace.

These are the readings for the memorial

First reading

2 Corinthians 4:1-2, 5-7

'We proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for the sake of Jesus.'

Brothers and Sisters: Having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practise cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for the sake of Jesus. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 96(95):1-2a. 2b-3. 7-8a. 10. R3

Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

or: Alleluia.

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

O sing to the Lord; bless his name. Proclaim his salvation day by day.

Tell among the nations his glory, and his wonders among all the peoples.

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and power;
ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name.

Say to the nations, 'The Lord is king.' The world he made firm in its place;
he will judge the peoples in fairness.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn15:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord,

because I have made known to you

everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 22:24-30

‘I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom.’

At that time: A dispute also arose among the Apostles, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And Jesus said to them, ‘The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

‘You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.’