

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

4th February 2026

First reading

2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17

'Behold, I have sinned in numbering the people. But these sheep, what have they done?'

In those days: King David said to Joab, the commander of the army, who was with him, 'Go through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and number the people, that I may know the number of the people.'

And Joab gave the sum of the numbering of the people to the king: in Israel there were eight hundred thousand valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand.

But David's heart struck him after he had numbered the people. And David said to the Lord, 'I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O Lord, please take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have done very foolishly.' And when David arose in the morning, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, 'Go and say to David, "Thus says the Lord, Three things I offer you. Choose one of them, that I may do it to you." ' So Gad came to David and told him, and said to him, 'Shall three years of famine come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' pestilence in your land? Now consider, and decide what answer I shall return to him who sent me.' Then David said to Gad, 'I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into the hand of man.'

So the Lord sent a pestilence on Israel from the morning until the appointed time. And there died of the people from Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men. And when the angel stretched out his hand towards Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the calamity and said to the angel who was working destruction among the people, 'It is enough; now stay your hand.' And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. Then David spoke to the Lord when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, 'Behold, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? Please let your hand be against me and against my father's house.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32(31):1-2. 5. 6. 7. R1a

Forgive, Lord, the guilt of my sin.

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.

Blessed the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile.

To you I have acknowledged my sin;
my guilt I did not hide.

I said, 'I will confess my transgression to the Lord.'

And you have forgiven the guilt of my sin.

So let each faithful one pray to you
in the time of need.

The floods of water may reach high,
but such a one they shall not reach.

You are a hiding place for me;
you keep me safe from distress;
you surround me with cries of deliverance.

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord,
and I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 6:1-6

'A prophet is not without honour, except in his home town.'

At that time: Jesus came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, 'Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is not without honour, except in his home town and among his relatives and in his own household.' And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

Short reflection on the reading for today

People in Nazareth were slow to recognize the implications of the wisdom of Jesus and his power for good towards the sick and suffering. They should have known that God must be working through this man in a special way. Instead, they showed him little respect. He was too familiar to them; too ordinary. They knew his mother and his family. How could he be all that different to everyone else in Nazareth? All too often, familiarity breeds contempt. We can be slow to recognize God's grace and presence in the ordinary and the familiar. We don't need to go on distant pilgrimages, or go into space, to encounter the presence of God. It is all around us in the familiar, the humdrum and in the ordinary. The gospel invites us to look on those around us with new eyes and with respect. The failure of the Nazarenes to see in this way inhibited what Jesus could do for them. Recognising him gives the Lord a proper welcome to bless our lives.