

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

18th September 2026

First reading

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

‘If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile.’

Brothers and Sisters: If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17(16):1. 6-7. 8b, 15. R15b

When I awake I shall be filled with the vision of your presence, O Lord.

O Lord, hear a cause that is just, pay heed to my cry.

Turn your ear to my prayer: no deceit is on my lips.

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God.

Turn your ear to me; hear my words.

Display your merciful love, you who deliver from their foes those who trust in your right hand.

Hide me in the shadow of your wings.

As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;

when I awake I shall be filled with the vision of your presence.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,

you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 8:1-3

‘Some women were with them, who provided for them out of their means.’

At that time: Jesus went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

Short reflection on the reading for today

It is right to honour Jesus as the Servant of all, for his purpose in life was “not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Yet, he also needed people to cooperate with him. He was at times dependent on the generosity of others, and St Luke actually gives the names of several women (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, the wife of Chuza, and Susanna, and many others) who travelled with Jesus and helped in his work. They “provided for him out of their own resources” and this enabled him to serve many others. It is not stated whether Jesus sent out these women to preach the Gospel, but they surely played some active part in spreading his message and his outlook.

If even Jesus needed the service of others, we his followers certainly do too. We are called to serve, also called to welcome the services of others, because we need them as much as they need us. Serving others calls for generosity; letting ourselves be served calls for humility, recognising that others can bring to us what we do not have within ourselves.

As Paul saw so clearly, within the church, the body of Christ, we are all interdependent. The Spirit is at work in all our lives in different ways. We need others and others need us. We all have something to give and something to receive. Let us welcome the service of the Lord as it comes to us in and through those who journey with us and cross our paths.