

## Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

June 20th 2026

### First reading

**2 Chronicles 24:17-25**

#### 'You have deserted the Lord: now he deserts you'

After the death of Jehoiada, the officials of Judah came to pay court to the king, and the king now turned to them for advice. The Judaeans abandoned the Temple of the Lord, the God of their ancestors, for the worship of sacred poles and idols. Because of their guilt, God's anger fell on Judah and Jerusalem. He sent them prophets to bring them back to the Lord, but when these gave their message, they would not listen. The spirit of God took possession of Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood up before the people and said, 'God says this, "Why do you transgress the commandments of the Lord to no good purpose? You have deserted the Lord, now he deserts you."' They then plotted against him and by order of the king stoned him in the court of the Temple of the Lord. King Joash, forgetful of the kindness that Jehoiada, the father of Zechariah, had shown him, killed Jehoiada's son who cried out as he died, 'The Lord sees and he will avenge!'

When a year had gone by, the Aramaean army made war on Joash. They reached Judah and Jerusalem, and executed all the officials among the people, sending back to the king at Damascus all that they had plundered from them. Though the Aramaean army had by no means come in force, the Lord delivered into its power an army of great size for having deserted him, the God of their ancestors.

The Aramaeans treated Joash as he had deserved, and when they retired they left him a very sick man; and his officers, plotting against him to avenge the death of the son of Jehoiada the priest, murdered him in his bed. So he died, and they buried him in the Citadel of David, though not in the tombs of the kings.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Psalm 88(89):4-5,29-34**

*I will keep my love for him always.*

'With my chosen one I have made a covenant;

I have sworn to David my servant:

I will establish your dynasty for ever

and set up your throne through all ages.

'I will keep my love for him always;

with him my covenant shall last.

I will establish his dynasty for ever,

make his throne endure as the heavens.

'If his sons forsake my law

and refuse to walk as I decree

and if ever they violate my statutes,

refusing to keep my commands;

then I will punish their offences with the rod,

then I will scourge them on account of their guilt.

'But I will never take back my love,

my truth will never fail.'

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Mt4:4**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Man does not live on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Alleluia!

**Or: 2Co8:9**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich,  
but he became poor for your sake,  
to make you rich out of his poverty.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel Matthew 6:24-34**

### **Do not worry about tomorrow: your holy Father knows your needs**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.

'That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and how you are to clothe it. Surely life means more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, for all his worrying, add one single cubit to his span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field which is there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you men of little faith? So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed?" It is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'

### **Short reflection on the reading for today**

Jesus says, "Let tomorrow take care of itself. Today has troubles enough of its own." It is more vital to live today than to worry about tomorrow. Life itself is more basic than sumptuous food, the body more valuable than elegant clothing. It is not healthy, psychologically, much less Christian, to be too attached to fancy foods or stylish clothing.

We need to review our priorities, "Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap, yet your heavenly Father feeds them." Selfish or sensuous desires lead to all sorts of trouble, as is well illustrated in today's first reading, about the fall from grace of the once promising king, Joash of Jerusalem. Worrying stems from our awareness of the vagaries of life and cannot be completely banished from our minds. Parents worry about their children. Relatives worry about each other. Young people worry about their future.

Jesus must sometimes have worried about his disciples, and the rejection of his message by many. So he does not tell us to never be concerned about *anything*. Rather, what he says is, don't set your hearts on *food, drink and clothing*; don't make material goods your main concern, for that would be pure paganism.

It is really about getting our priorities right, in line with Christ's own priorities. He says, 'Set your hearts on God's kingdom first, and on his righteousness.' Don't be so anxious about food, drink and clothing that there is no room left for doing God's will. The beginning of the Lord's Prayer lists the real priorities,

'Hallowed by thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done.' These were Jesus' concerns and should be ours as well.