Reading for the Memorial of St Elizabeth of Hungary

17th November 2026

First reading

Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22

'If anyone opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him.'

I, John, heard the Lord saying to me, 'To the angel of the church in Sardis write: "The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

"I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the Book of Life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '

'And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: "The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.

"I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realising that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich; and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen; and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 15(14):2-3a. 3b-4b. 5. ℟1b

The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne.

Whoever walks without fault; who does what is righteous,
and speaks the truth from his heart; whoever does not slander with his tongue.
Who does no wrong to a neighbour, who casts no slur on a friend,
who looks with scorn on the wicked, but honours those who fear the Lord.
Who lends no money at interest, and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a one shall never be shaken.

Gospel Acclamation **1 John 4:10b**

Alleluia, alleluia.
God loved us
and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
Alleluia.

Gospel **Luke 19:1-10**

'The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'

At that time: Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.' So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, 'He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.' And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, 'Behold, Lord, half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'

Short reflection on the reading for today

To be *found* by Jesus, Zacchaeus was prepared to *lose* much of himself. First of all, he let go of his social dignity by climbing up the sycamore tree to get a view. At the end of the story, he gave away much of his wealth to paying back with interest those he had defrauded. Maybe Jesus too had to set aside his reputation as a man of God, by going to dine at the home of a well-known "sinner", the tax-collector Zacchaeus.

On reaching the shade of the sycamore tree, Jesus looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down!" Because he recognised a spirit of repentance in the tax-man's heart he put his dignity at risk by offering to visit the man for supper. Then he gave the reason: his purpose was "to search out and save what was lost." The tax-collector's response was glad acceptance.

Our own moments of conversion are much less dramatic. It is easy to be lukewarm, like the church of Laodicea. If we are lukewarm, we are not really bad; we help the poor, a little; we are sympathetic, sometimes; we are forgiving, towards a select few. We practice our Christianity half-heartedly. Maybe the Lord would prefer that we were sinners, capable of conversion, rather than "lukewarm, neither hot nor cold," standing up for nothing and just taking the easy option all the time.