

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

June 25th 2026

First reading

2 Kings 24:8-17

‘The king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon Jehoiachin and all the men of valour.’

Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father had done.

At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up to Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to the city while his servants were besieging it, and Jehoiachin the king of Judah gave himself up to the king of Babylon, himself, and his mother, and his servants, and his officials, and his palace officials. The king of Babylon took him prisoner in the eighth year of his reign, and carried off all the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king’s house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold in the Temple of the Lord, which Solomon king of Israel had made, as the Lord had foretold. He carried away all Jerusalem and all the officials and all the mighty men of valour, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths. None remained, except the poorest people of the land. And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon. The king’s mother, the king’s wives, his officials, and the chief men of the land he took into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. And the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon all the men of valour, seven thousand, and the craftsmen and the metal workers, one thousand, all of them strong and fit for war. And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin’s uncle, king in his place, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79(78):1-2. 3-5. 8. 9. R9b

Free us, O Lord, for the sake of the glory of your name.

O God, the nations have invaded your heritage;

they have profaned your holy Temple.

They have made Jerusalem a heap of ruins.

They have handed over the bodies of your servants

as food to feed the birds of heaven,

and the flesh of your faithful to the beasts of the earth.

They have poured out their blood like water round Jerusalem;

no one is left to bury the dead.

We have become the taunt of our neighbours,

the mockery and scorn of those around us.

How long, O Lord? Will you be angry for ever?

Will your jealous anger burn like fire?

Do not remember against us

the guilt of former times.

Let your compassion hasten to meet us;

for we have been brought very low.

Help us, O God our saviour,

for the sake of the glory of your name.

Free us and forgive us our sins,

because of your name.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia.

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord,
and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 7:21-29

The house built on rock and the house built on the sand.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord”, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?” And then will I declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.”’

‘Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.’

And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Short reflection on the reading for today

For weeks we have been reading from the Sermon on the Mount and today we have read the final section of that great Sermon. There are three activities that followers of Jesus engage in, speaking, listening and doing; and all three are important. When we gather for public prayer we speak; we call on Jesus as “Lord, Lord.” Then both at public worship and at times of private prayer we listen; we hear the word of the Lord and let it sink into our hearts. Speaking and listening will always be central to the life of a disciple. However, Jesus adds that unless our speaking and our listening overflow into good actions their value is undermined.

It is not enough to say “Lord, Lord,” — for we must also do the will of the Father in heaven. It is not enough to listen to the words of Jesus, we need to act on them. We must act in harmony with what we say and what we hear. When our speaking to God and our listening to his word bear fruit in good works, imitating the life of Jesus, then our lives are solidly grounded, like a house built on rock. Today’s gospel promises that if our words to God and God’s words to us shape our attitudes and behaviour, we can more easily withstand any storms that come our way in life.