

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

10th September 2026

First reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-7, 11-13

‘Wounding your brothers’ conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.’

Brothers and Sisters: Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that ‘all of us possess knowledge’. This ‘knowledge’ puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that ‘an idol has no real existence’, and that ‘there is no God but one.’ For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as indeed there are many ‘gods’ and many ‘lords’ — yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brothers and sisters and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 139(138):1-3. 13-14b. 23-24. R24b

Lead me, O Lord, in the way everlasting.

O Lord, you search me and you know me.

You yourself know my resting and my rising; you discern my thoughts from afar.

You mark when I walk or lie down; you know all my ways through and through.

For it was you who formed my inmost being, knit me together in my mother’s womb.

I thank you who wonderfully made me; how wonderful are your works.

O search me, God, and know my heart.

O test me, and know my thoughts.

See that my path is not wicked, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Gospel Acclamation

1 John 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia.

If we love one another, God abides in us
and his love is perfected in us.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

‘Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you; and from one who takes away your goods, do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

‘If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting

nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

‘Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

In the culture of the time, people who were in a position to give generously expected some kind of return. Giving to others put them in debt to you; there was a cultural expectation of some kind of return. Perhaps our own culture is not all that different, because we are not all that different. We struggle to be selfless in our giving. Jesus cuts across that culture of giving with a view to receiving.

The love he calls for, with no trace of self-seeking is rare; it is how God loves. God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked; God does not give with a view to receiving. Can we be God-like in our loving and in our giving? The world would consider this a folly; we will be left with nothing. But if we give in this God-like way, a full measure, running over, will be poured into our lap. We are to let this message of Christ, in its richness, find a home with us.