

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

14th October 2026

First reading

Galatians 5:18-25

‘Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions.’

Brothers and Sisters: If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 1:1-2. 3. 4, 6. R Psalm 40(39):5a

Whoever follows you, Lord, will have the light of life.

Blessed indeed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the path with sinners, nor abides in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord, and who ponders his law day and night.
He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season, and whose leaves shall never fade; and all that he does shall prosper.
Not so are the wicked, not so! For they, like winnowed chaff, shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord,
and I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 11:42-46

‘Woe to you Pharisees!

Woe to you lawyers also!’

At that time: Jesus said, ‘But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the market-places. Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without knowing it.’

One of the lawyers answered him, ‘Teacher, in saying these things you insult us also.’ And he said, ‘Woe to you lawyers also! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

Sometimes life's burden seems to weigh heavily on us; at other times it feels lighter. The Lord wants us to carry each other's burdens, but the opposite can easily happen, so that we burden them instead.

He accuses the lawyers of burdening people instead of trying to help them. Their version of the Jewish Law had been distorted. Rather than a pathway to life, the Law was a heavy weight on an overburdened people. Jesus did not come to make people feel more guilty. Instead he invited them, 'Come to me..., and I will give you rest.'

If the gospel sometimes feels demanding, it is in order to be more loving in our relationships. We are not meant to feel burdened by this duty. The loving Lord who wants us to have life to the full gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit to know that his way leads to eternal life.