

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

8th October 2026

First reading

Galatians 3:1-5

‘Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?’

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain — if indeed it was in vain? Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?

Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:69-70. 71-72. 73-75. R cf. 68

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited his people.

He has raised up for us a horn of salvation in the House of David his servant,
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy ones, his prophets from ages past.

To grant salvation from our foes, and from the hand of all who hate us,
showing mercy to our fathers, remembering his holy covenant.

The oath he swore to Abraham our father, to grant that freed from the hand of our foes,
we may serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Acts 16:14b

Alleluia, alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord,

that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 11:5-13

‘Ask, and it will be given to you.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, “Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey and I have nothing to set before him”; and he will answer from within, “Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything”? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’

Short reflection on the reading for today

Perseverance is based on trust that we really will find what we seek. Instead of the moral term, “perseverance,” Luke has the more secular term “persistence.” While “perseverance” suggests faithfulness in following the way of Jesus, there’s a stubborn toughness in persistence.

Jewish culture required hospitality be offered even to someone who arrives at an inconvenient time. It's not normal to trouble a neighbour at midnight for something we need. Even Jesus is not really promoting such a socially offensive request. The point of his parable is in its imagery, "for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." If the neighbour obliges, however unwillingly, how much more will God give us as much as we need.

The goodness of God is also compared to parents' care and attention towards their children. Jesus acknowledges the basic goodness and generosity of parents. So how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask. For the Gospel writers, and for St Luke in particular, the Holy Spirit is the highest gift God can give us.