

## Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026

### First reading

**2 Peter 3:12-15a, 17-18**

**‘We are waiting for new heavens and a new earth.’**

Beloved: We are waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 90(89):2. 3-4. 10. 14, 16. R1**

*O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.*

Before the mountains were born,  
or the earth or the world were brought forth,

you are God, from age to age.

You turn man back to dust,

and say, ‘Return, O children of Adam.’

To your eyes a thousand years

are like yesterday, come and gone,

or like a watch in the night.

Seventy years is the span of our days,

or eighty if we are strong.

And most of these are toil and pain.

They pass swiftly and we are gone.

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;

we shall exult and rejoice all our days.

Let your deed be seen by your servants,

and your glorious power by their children.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Cf. Ephesians 1:17-18**

Alleluia, alleluia.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

enlighten the eyes of our hearts,

so that we may know the hope to which he has called us.

Alleluia.

## **Gospel**

### **Mark 12:13-17**

**‘Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’**

At that time: They sent to Jesus some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. And they came and said to him, ‘Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone’s opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?’ But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, ‘Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.’ And they brought one. And he said to them, ‘Whose likeness and inscription is this?’ They said to him, ‘Caesar’s.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’ And they marvelled at him.

### **Short reflection on the reading for today**

The question those messengers asked Jesus was just trying to trap him into an answer that would lose him popular respect or put him in danger with the law. If he answered, “Yes, pay your taxes to Caesar,” he would lose those of his followers who resented the Romans as foreign invaders. But if he said, “No, refuse to pay taxes to Caesar” he would be liable to arrest and trial by the Romans.

Jesus was questioned many times in the course of his public ministry and if the question came from an honest heart he took it seriously. On this occasion the query was malicious; but he answered it in his unique way. His answer was enigmatic and could mean several things: “Render to Caesar...” People should give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and give back to God what belongs to God.

Yes, the *coin* can be given to Caesar because it bears his image, but what we owe to God is more fundamental. Later, Jesus spells it out: to love God with all our heart, soul and mind. This is to be our first and greatest duty, our primary commitment. That level of tribute cannot apply to any human authority, political or otherwise. No Caesar, king or president, no political institution, no authority can ever take the place of God in our lives.