Reading for the Memorial of St Leo the Great, Pope

10th November 2026

First reading

Titus 2:1-8, 11-14

'To live godly lives waiting for our blessed hope,
the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.'

Beloved: Teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behaviour, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness, and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 37(36):3-4. 18, 23. 27, 29. ℟39a

The salvation of the upright comes from the Lord.
Trust in the Lord and do good; then you will dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
Find your delight in the Lord, who grants your heart's desire.
The Lord takes note of the days of the blameless; their heritage will last for ever.
By the Lord are the steps made firm of one in whose path he delights.
Then turn away from evil and do good, and you may abide for ever.
The upright shall inherit the land; there they shall abide for ever.

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 **Luke 17:7-10**

'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'

At that time: the Lord said, 'Will any one of you who has a servant ploughing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, "Come at once and recline at table"? Will he not rather say to him, "Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterwards you will eat and drink"? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, "We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty." '

Short reflection on the reading for today
In the era of slavery, those slaves who did what their masters ordered did not expect to be thanked for doing so. Carrying out orders did not put their master under any obligation to them. Something similar applies in our relationship with God. Even though we are called to serve God in our lives and our worship, the grace of God remains a free gift and not something that we have strictly earned or merited. We try to do our duty as best we can, day in and day out, but at the end of the day, even after doing all He asks of us we come before God with empty hands. But it is our poverty that opens us up to receive the divine mercy. It is by becoming like little children that we enter the kingdom. In the words of the *Magnificat*, God feeds the hungry with good things, but the rich he sends empty away.

These are the readings for the memorial

First reading **Sirach 39:6-10**

'He will be filled with the spirit of understanding.'
He who studies the law of the Most High, if the great Lord is willing,
he will be filled with the spirit of understanding; he will pour forth his words of wisdom
and give thanks to the Lord in prayer.
He will direct his counsel and knowledge aright and meditate on his secrets.
He will reveal instruction in his teaching and will glory in the law of the Lord's covenant.
Many will praise his understanding, and it will never be blotted out;
his memory will not disappear, and his name will live through all generations.
Nations will declare his wisdom, and the congregation will proclaim his praise.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 37(36):3-4. 5-6. 30-31. ℟30a

The mouth of the upright utters wisdom.
Trust in the Lord and do good; then you will dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
Find your delight in the Lord, who grants your heart's desire.
Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act,
and make your uprightness shine like the light, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.
The mouth of the upright utters wisdom, and his tongue tells forth what is just.
The law of his God is in his heart; his steps shall be saved from stumbling.

Gospel Acclamation **Mk1:17**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you into fishers of men.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-19

'You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.'
At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'