

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

4th July 2026

First reading

Amos 9:11-15

‘I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and I will plant them on their land.’

Thus says the Lord:

‘In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old, that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name,’ declares the Lord who does this.

‘Behold, the days are coming,’ declares the Lord,

‘when the ploughman shall overtake the reaper
and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed;

the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.

I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.

I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them,’ says the Lord your God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 85(84):9. 11-12. 13-14. R9b

The Lord speaks of peace for his people.

I will hear what the Lord God speaks;
he speaks of peace for his people and his faithful,
and those who turn their hearts to him.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have kissed.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth,
and justice look down from heaven.

Also the Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.

Righteousness will march before him,
and guide his steps on the way.

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

Matthew 9:14-17

‘Can they mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them?’

At that time: The disciples of John came to Jesus, saying, ‘Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. No one puts a piece of un-shrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

John's disciples wanted to know why Jesus was not fasting—because in their book, a Jew fasted, and a pious Jew fasted more often. But Jesus did not measure religion by external actions like fasting or keeping other requirements of the Law (such as washing hands before eating). For him, religion was a matter of the inner spirit, as we saw in his deeper interpretations of the Law during the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus uses a variety of different metaphors/ images. What did Jesus mean by these images? He was giving a clear message to his critics. Jesus' ideas were like new wine or new cloth. They could not be fitted into old containers. People like the Pharisees were trying to fit Jesus' teaching and his ideas into their ways of thinking, but that would not work.

Over the centuries the Church has moved its position in many areas as it reaches a deeper understanding of the faith and how it is to be lived in a changing world. Such a movement took place with the Second Vatican Council. It involved much more than external changes (like having the Mass in the vernacular instead of Latin). It involved a whole new way of seeing our faith and our place as Christians in the world.