

# Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## First reading

**1 Corinthians 3:18-23**

### **The wisdom of the world is foolishness to God**

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: *The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are;* or again: *God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise.* So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Psalm 23(24):1-6**

### ***The Lord's is the earth and all that is in it***

The Lord's are the earth and its fullness;

the world and those who dwell in it.

For he founded it upon the seas

and established it upon the rivers. (R./)

Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord?

or who may stand in his holy place?

He whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,

who desires not what is vain. (R./)

He shall receive a blessing from the Lord,

a reward from God his saviour.

Such is the race that seeks for him,

that seeks the face of the God of Jacob. (R./)

## Gospel Acclamation

**cf. 2Thess2:14**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Through the Good News God called us  
to share the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

**Luke 5:1-11**

### **They left everything and followed him**

Jesus was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon's – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied, 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

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

Most of us will have tasted the experience of failure in one shape or form. We may have failed to live up to the values and the goals that we had set ourselves; some enterprise or some initiative that we had invested in may have come to nothing; some relationship that was important to us may have slipped away from us. All such experiences can leave us feeling disheartened.

Such a move from failure to success is told in the gospel. We can hear Peter's discouragement when he mutters, 'we worked all night and caught nothing.' Then after the miraculous haul of fish he shouts out, 'leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' Their initial failure does not have the last word. Jesus changed their fruitless labour into a marvellous catch; and he draws the reluctant Peter into his own work of gathering people into God's kingdom.

He is constantly at work in all kinds of unlikely people and situations, changing failure into success. For this to happen in our own lives, we must put our trust in him. He wants us to keep launching out into deep water in response and help him let down the net of his saving grace.