

Reading for the Memorial of SS Timothy and Titus

26th January 2026

First reading

2 Timothy 1:1-8

‘I am reminded of your sincere faith.’

Paul, an Apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power and love and self-control.

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 96(95):1-2a. 2b-3. 7-8a. 10. R3

Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

or: Alleluia.

O sing a new song to the Lord;

sing to the Lord, all the earth.

O sing to the Lord; bless his name.

Proclaim his salvation day by day.

Tell among the nations his glory,

and his wonders among all the peoples.

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of peoples,

ascribe to the Lord glory and power;

ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name.

Say to the nations, ‘The Lord is king.’

The world he made firm in its place;

he will judge the peoples in fairness.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. 2 Timothy 1:10

Alleluia, alleluia.

Our Saviour Christ Jesus abolished death

and brought life to light through the gospel.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 3:22-30

‘Satan is coming to an end.’

At that time: The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, ‘He is possessed by Beelzebul,’ and ‘By the prince of demons he casts out the demons.’ And he called them to him and said to them in parables, ‘How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

‘Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin’ — for they were saying, ‘He has an unclean spirit.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

Timothy’s role in the Church sounds like a retired foreign missionary who later became guide or bishop to the local Christians in Ephesus. He had the honour of being a fellow worker with Paul, sharing in the privilege of both preaching the gospel and suffering for it. Titus, too, was a loyal fellow worker, who features both in the Pauline letters and in the Acts of the Apostles.

In the first reading, Paul refers to the faith of Timothy’s mother and grandmother. Without their faith, Timothy would not have been the man of faith he was. We can all point to parents, grandparents and various other companions on the pilgrimage of life, without whom we would not have come to faith in the Lord. As Paul needed Timothy and Titus, and Jesus needed many workers, we need each other’s witness if the gift that God gave us in baptism is to be fanned into a living flame, in the words of the first reading. In this year of faith, we ask the Lord to increase our faith so that we can be a support to one another in the living out of our baptismal calling.