

Reading for Weekday in the First Week of Advent

4th December 2025

First reading

Isaiah 26:1-6

‘Let the righteous nation that keeps faith enter in.’

In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah:

‘We have a strong city;

he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks.

Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in.

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Trust in the Lord for ever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

For he has humbled the inhabitants of the height, the lofty city.

He lays it low, lays it low to the ground, casts it to the dust.

The foot tramples it, the feet of the poor, the steps of the needy.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118(117):1, 8-9. 19-21. 25-27a. R26a

Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

or: Alleluia.

Give praise to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures for ever.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord

than to trust in anyone else;

it is better to take refuge in the Lord

than to trust in princes.

Open to me the gates of righteousness:

I will enter and thank the Lord.

This is the Lord’s own gate,

where the upright enter.

I will thank you, for you have answered,

and you are my saviour.

We beseech you, O Lord, grant salvation;

We beseech you, O Lord, grant success.

Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;

the Lord is God, and has given us light.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 55:6

Alleluia, alleluia.

Seek the Lord while he may be found;

call upon him while he is near.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 7:21, 24-27

‘One who does the will of my Father will enter the kingdom of heaven.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord”, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

‘Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

We can identify with the weather image that Jesus uses in today’s gospel, “Rains came down, floods rose, gales blew.” Sounds familiar, doesn’t it? Apart from weather storms, we can also be struck by storms of a different kind no matter where in the world we live. The church has been through quite a storm in recent years, and the effects are still felt. As individuals, we can find ourselves battling against the elements of life, as we struggle in one shape or form, for one reason or another.

Jesus warns that all of us will at some time face the storms of life, and he wants to help us survive them. When the storms come will we find ourselves tossed about helplessly, or will we be able to withstand the storm and move through and beyond it? Jesus wants to be our rock when the storm comes. If we listen to his words and try to act on those words we will remain standing even when storms break around us. Jesus brings us back to basics, the doing of God’s will as he has revealed it for us. If we keep on returning to that focal point, the Lord will see to it that we endure, regardless of the strength of the storm.