Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

3rd November 2026

First reading

Philippians 2:5-11

'He humbled himself therefore God has highly exalted him.'

Brothers and Sisters: Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22(21):26b-27. 28, 30. 31-32. ℟26a

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. May your hearts live on for ever and ever!
All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him.
They have eaten and adore him, all who sleep in the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.
And my soul shall live for him, my descendants serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, declare his saving justice to peoples yet unborn:
'These are the things the Lord has done.'

Gospel Acclamation **Matthew 11:28**

Alleluia, alleluia.
Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, says the Lord,
and I will give you rest.
Alleluia.

Gospel **Luke 14:15-24**

'Go out to the highways and hedgerows and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.'

At that time: One of those who reclined at table with Jesus said to him, 'Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!' But he said to him, 'A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, "Come, for everything is now ready." But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, "I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please excuse me." And another said, "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please excuse me." And another said, "I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, "Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame." And the servant said, "Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room." And the master said to the servant, "Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet." '

Short reflection on the reading for today

At a sociable dinner-table in Israel one of the guests shares his religious hopes for the future, “Happy will they be who sit at table in the kingdom of God.” In reply Jesus offers a parable about how life should be lived here and now. He imagines a great banquet feast to which invitations have already gone out. The variety of responses are a reminder of what lame excuses we sometimes make, for not doing what we ought to do. “I’d really love to come, but unfortunately this other thing has cropped up….”
Guests who had initially accepted their invitation now made excuses and failed to show up, just as the meal was ready to be served. They let themselves be distracted by various hobbies and attachments, all good in themselves perhaps, but not enough to refuse God’s invitation. Their refusal will later cause them severe regret.
As a result of those refusals, a surprising invitation goes out to the kinds of people who would hardly ever be invited to such a party. Because they have no cherished hobbies or prior commitments, they are delighted to respond. The parable calls us to be attuned to the grace of the present moment and not to let the good things of this world to so absorb us that we cannot respond to the Lord’s invitation as it comes to us in the here and now of our daily lives.