

## Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

June 4th 2026

### First reading

**2 Timothy 2:8-15**

**‘The word of God is not bound!**

**If we have died with him, we will also live with him.’**

Beloved: Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful — for he cannot deny himself.

Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 25(24): 4-5b. 8-9. 10, 14. R4a**

*O Lord, make me know your ways.*

O Lord, make me know your ways.

Teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth, and teach me;  
for you are the God of my salvation.

Good and upright is the Lord;  
therefore he shows the way to sinners.

He guides the humble in right judgement;  
to the humble he teaches his way.

All the Lord’s paths are mercy and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and commands.

The Lord’s secret is for those who fear him;  
to them he reveals his covenant.

### 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 12:28b-34**

**‘You shall love the Lord your God. You shall love your neighbour.’**

At that time: One of the scribes came up to Jesus and asked him, ‘Which commandment is the most important of all?’ Jesus answered, ‘The most important is, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The second is this: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’ And the scribe said to him, ‘You are right, Teacher. You

have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbour as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.' And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

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

A learned Jew comes to Jesus and asks, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" There were a lot of rules and regulations in their religion and he wanted to know which one came first. The answer went beyond the question. Jesus gave both the first and the second, to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves. These two principles are inseparable. We cannot love truly God without loving our neighbour, and in loving our neighbour we are, at the same time, loving God.

Still, the two are not on the same level, for one is first and one is second. The love of God is to be the primary love in our lives. We owe our lives to God and so we should "Seek first the kingdom of God." If we really love God, it will overflow into love of others, and our various links with other people will reflect something of God's love for them.

This discussion links the love commandment with the *Torah* of Moses. Normally we do not associate love with law but *Torah* includes ideals much deeper than petty regulations. Love is a genuine and generous response of one person to another. The highest level of loving is a total gift of self, "with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." It is the response we owe to the God who made and sustains us. The other facet of love is the one by which we care for others as truly as we care about ourselves. This two-fold love, says Jesus, is worth more than all ritual sacrifice. Without love, rituals are meaningless, while with it we are "not far from the reign of God."

We need each other's help, for at one time this one suffers and later it is the other who is in need. We support one another, the able-bodied caring for the weak; for sooner or later the tables are turned and the strong will be the ones needing help. And in our weakness there is still hope, as Paul writes: "If we are unfaithful God still remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself."