

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

13th October 2026

First reading

Galatians 5:1-6

‘Circumcision counts for nothing, but only faith working through love.’

Brothers and Sisters: For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 119(118):41, 43. 44-45. 47-48. R41a

Lord, *let your mercy come upon me.*

Lord, let your mercy come upon me, the salvation you have promised.

Never take the word of truth from my mouth, for I hope in your decrees.

I shall always keep your law, for ever and ever.

I shall walk on a spacious plain, for I seek your precepts.

In your commands I have found my delight; these I have loved.

I reach out to your commands, which I love, and ponder your statutes.

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia.

The word of God is living and active, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 11:37-41

‘Give alms, and behold, everything is clean for you.’

At that time: While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at table. The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. And the Lord said to him, ‘Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

We know from experience how people have differing priorities. What motivates me may seem trivial to someone else. We can get upset when something we regard as important is not taken seriously by someone near to us. The ritual of washing in a certain way before meals was clearly of more importance to his host than it was to Jesus. He had differing priorities. Rituals like washings mattered less to him than the values and attitudes in our hearts. He turns to conversation to another Jewish practice, almsgiving, the willingness to give to those in need. Rather than some version of “Cleanliness is next to godliness,” he is implying that what matters most is love.

Perhaps what we think vital is not necessarily so. What we seek is not always what Christ values. We must let him mould us more than we do, if we are to “put on the mind of Christ.” We pray that our priorities may reflect the Lord’s own priorities.

