

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

9th July 2026

First reading

Hosea 11:1-4, 8c-9

‘My heart recoils within me.’

Thus says the Lord:

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

The more they were called, the more they went away;

they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols.

Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms,

but they did not know that I healed them.

I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love,

and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them.

My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender.

I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim;

for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 80(79):2ac, 3b, 15-16. R4b

Let your face shine forth, O Lord, and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,

enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.

Rouse up your might and come to save us.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;

look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,

the stock your right hand has planted,

the son you have claimed for yourself.

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia.

The kingdom of God is at hand;

repent and believe in the gospel.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 10:7-15

‘You received without paying; give without pay.’

At that time: Jesus instructed his Apostles: ‘Proclaim as you go, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the labourer deserves his food. And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. As you enter the house, greet it. And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgement for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

Today we continue the instructions Jesus gave to his disciples: what they are to say and do. They are to proclaim that:

The kingdom of heaven [God] has come near.

Jesus also tells his disciples to travel light. They are not to charge for their service. They are not to find their security in the possession of material things, especially money. To increase their freedom, they should go around with the absolute minimum. In our lives, possessions, and our concern about them, can be very controlling.

St Teresa of Calcutta once said: "I do own things, but they do not own me." That is where she differed from so many of us.

Today, all of us are called to proclaim the Kingship, the Lordship of God by our words, actions and lifestyle. The Church is still called to bring healing into people's lives. We may not raise people literally from the dead, but there are many who are virtually dead, though physically alive, and who need to be brought back to a fully human life.

Most of our societies today do not have lepers, but we have, in every society, people who are marginalised and pushed out to the fringes. There is a lot of work to be done—by each one of us in our own way and in accordance with our gifts and life situation.