

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

June 10th 2026

First reading

1 Kings 18:20-39

‘Let this people know that you are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.’

In those days: Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. And Elijah came near to all the people and said, ‘How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.’ And the people did not answer him a word. Then Elijah said to the people, ‘I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal’s prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, he is God.’ And all the people answered, ‘It is well spoken.’ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, ‘Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it.’ And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, ‘O Baal, answer us!’ But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped round the altar that they had made. And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, ‘Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.’ And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.

Then Elijah said to all the people, ‘Come near to me.’ And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down. Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, ‘Israel shall be your name’, and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, ‘Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.’ And he said, ‘Do it a second time.’ And they did it a second time. And he said, ‘Do it a third time.’ And they did it a third time. And the water ran round the altar and filled the trench also with water.

And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, ‘O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.’ Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, ‘The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 16(15):1-2a. 4. 5, 8. 11. R1

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord.’

Those who choose other gods increase their sorrows.

I will not take part in their offerings of blood. Nor will I take their names upon my lips.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; you yourself who secure my lot.

I keep the Lord before me always;

with him at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand, bliss for ever.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 25(24):4b, 5a

Alleluia, alleluia.

My God, teach me your paths
and guide me in your truth.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 5:17-19

‘Whoever does them and teaches them will be called great.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

In our polarised world, our challenge is to discern when to accept alternate viewpoints, and when to make a clean break. We are back again with Sirach’s famous question of timing. We must study issues carefully to avoid bad decisions and impulsive reactions. Clearly, such a stand as that taken by Elijah must be preceded by a long road of other attempts to reconcile and change. That his stance on Mount Carmel was the last resort, becomes clear when he ordered the four hundred and fifty prophets of Ba’al seized, dragged down to brook Kishon, and killed (1 Kings 18:40). We leave such a final day of judgement to God himself, and until it comes, we are to call others to conversion and reconciliation.

Brought up in an observant Jewish family, Jesus had learned a deep respect for Jewish practices and traditions. So in his early preaching he said, “Don’t imagine that I have come to abolish the Law and the Prophets”. But he adds that his purpose is to *complete* the Law and the Prophets, to focus on their *purpose* rather than on obeying them literally and in detail. Jesus valued all that was good in his religious tradition, but knew that God wanted to deepen and enrich that tradition.

We value our own religious traditions too, but we also need to critique the obvious faults in our church and be open to what is needed from us today. Our task is to prayerfully discern what God requires of us here and now.