

## Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

7<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### First reading

1 Kings 3:4-13

**'Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people.'**

In those days: Solomon went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, 'Ask what I shall give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life, or riches, or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honour, so that no other king shall compare with you all your days.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 119(118):9-10. 11-12. 13-14. R12b**

*Teach me, O Lord, your statutes.*

How shall a youth remain pure on his way?

By obeying your word.

I seek you with all my heart;  
let me not stray from your commands.

I treasure your word in my heart,  
lest I sin against you.

Blest are you, O Lord;  
teach me your statutes.

With my lips have I recounted  
all the decrees of your mouth.

I rejoice in the way of your precepts,  
as though all riches were mine.

### Gospel Acclamation

**John 10:27**

Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord,  
and I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia.

**Gospel****Mark 6:30-34****'They were like sheep without a shepherd.'**

At that time: The Apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, 'Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognised them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.

**Short reflection on the reading for today**

Today's reading from 1 Kings offers an example of choosing the right priorities. Solomon is praised for asking God for the right things, the things that matter. Like an Aladdin with his magic lamp who was invited to wish for whatever he liked, Solomon's request was not for a long life, or for riches or victory in battle, but for understanding. Interestingly, the promise to Solomon came in a dream at night. Dreams imply a time of retreat from the everyday rush, when God can access our subconscious mind, a time of perception, when we recover our better self, when we are not distracted by selfish wants and petty concerns.

Times of retreat and reflection are necessary, as Jesus told the disciples, "Come apart and rest a little." The peace we seek is not a human creation; it is God's special gift. The rabbis considered the Sabbath, along with the Torah, as God's supreme gifts to his chosen people. We need the some stretches of un-programmed silence, when God can speak to our inner selves.

On the other hand, when Jesus saw the crowd he pitied them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd and he began to teach them at length. He leaves his prayerful solitude behind to share the word of God with the crowd. We need an integrated harmony of prayer and activity, to follow his example.