

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

May 29th 2026

First reading

1 Peter 4:7-13

‘Be good stewards of God’s varied grace.’

Beloved: The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies — in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 96(95):10. 11-13a. 13b-d. R13b

The Lord comes to judge the earth.

Say to the nations, ‘The Lord is king.’

The world he made firm in its place; he will judge the peoples in fairness.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad; let the sea and all within it thunder praise.

Let the field and all it bears exult.

Then will all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord, for he comes.

He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice, and the peoples with faithfulness.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. John 15:16

Alleluia, alleluia.

I chose you out of the world, says the Lord,

that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 11:11-26

‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations. Have faith in God.’

With the acclamation of the crowd, Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. And he said to it, ‘May no one ever eat fruit from you again.’ And his disciples heard it.

And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the Temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the Temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the Temple. And he was teaching them and saying to them, ‘Is it not written, “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations”? But you have made it a den of robbers.’ And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. And when evening came they went out of the city.

As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. And Peter remembered and said to him, 'Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.' And Jesus answered them, 'Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, "Be taken up and thrown into the sea", and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your trespasses'.

Short reflection on the reading for today

Mark often links two things together that for him have something in common. Here he links the purification of the Jerusalem temple with the story of Jesus cursing the fig tree. When he found no fruit on the fig tree, that tree had no future. Mark is implying that since the temple was not bearing its proper fruit it was doomed. Instead of being a house of prayer it had become a robber's den. Like the fig tree, it too had no future.

Jesus goes on to speak about prayer. The temple will be replaced by a new "house of prayer", a new kind of faith-community, the worldwide family of those who do the will of God as taught by Jesus, his living church. We are to be a prayerful community, marked by goodwill and forgiveness. A readiness to forgive as we have been forgiven is one of the main fruits God expects to find in a true house of prayer.