

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

June 18th 2026

First reading

Sirach 48:1-14

‘Elijah was covered by the whirlwind, and Elisha was filled with his spirit.’

The prophet Elijah arose like a fire and his word burned like a torch.

He brought a famine upon them, and by his zeal he made them few in number.

By the word of the Lord he shut up the heavens, and also three times brought down fire.

How glorious you were, O Elijah, in your wondrous deeds!

And who has the right to boast that which you have?

You who raised a corpse from death and from Hades, by the word of the Most High;

who brought kings down to destruction and famous men from their beds;

who heard rebuke at Sinai and judgements of vengeance at Horeb;

who anointed kings to inflict retribution and prophets to succeed you.

You who were taken up by a whirlwind of fire in a chariot with horses of fire;

you who are ready at the appointed time, it is written,

to calm the wrath of God before it breaks out in fury, to turn the heart of the father to the son,
and to restore the tribes of Jacob.

Blessed are those who saw you and those who have been fallen asleep in love;
for we also shall surely live.

It was Elijah who was covered by the whirlwind, and Elisha was filled with his spirit.

In all his days he did not tremble before any ruler,

and no one brought him into subjection.

Nothing was too hard for him,

and when he was dead his body prophesied.

As in his life he did wonders, so in death his deeds were marvellous.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97(96):1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 7. R12a

Rejoice in the Lord, all you just.

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice;

let the many islands be glad.

Cloud and darkness surround him;

justice and right are the foundation of his throne.

A fire prepares his path;

it burns up his foes on every side.

His lightnings light up the world;

the earth looks on and trembles.

The mountains melt like wax

before the face of the Lord,

before the face of the Lord of all the earth.

The skies proclaim his justice;

all peoples see his glory.

Let those who serve idols be ashamed,

those who boast of their worthless gods.

All you angels, worship him.

Gospel Acclamation**Romans 8:15bc**

Alleluia, alleluia.

You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons,
by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'

Alleluia.

Gospel**Matthew 6:7-15****'Pray then like this.'**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'When you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then, like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

'For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.'

Short reflection on the reading for today

The Lord's Prayer is reported in two gospels, Matthew and Luke. In Matthew, Jesus prefaced it by warning against using too many words, or babbling like the pagans did. It was pagan custom to bombard the gods with mere formulae to induce them to show favour. Christians must not to pray in such a mechanical way. Our God cannot be persuaded or manipulated by endless petitions. Rather, Jesus teaches us to willingly accept whatever our heavenly Father wills.

What is most important is God's glory, fulfilling His plan [the Kingdom] and doing God's will. We are to welcome our dependence on God and ask for our basic needs — the food we need for the day, forgiveness of our faults and strength to go on living. The Lord's Prayer is powerful yet simple, and is in fact the *iconic* teaching on how we ought to pray.