Reading for the Memorial of St Josaphat

12th November 2026

First reading **Philemon 7-20**

'Have him back no longer as a bondservant but as a beloved brother.'

Beloved: I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you — I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus — I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother — especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it — to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 146(145): 7. 8-9a. 9b-10. ℟5a

Blessed is he who is helped by Jacob's God.
or: Alleluia.
It is the Lord who does justice to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free.
It is the Lord who opens the eyes of the blind, the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger.
The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever, your God, O Sion, from age to age.

Gospel Acclamation **John 15:5**

Alleluia, alleluia.
I am the vine; you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit.
Alleluia.

Gospel **Luke 17:20-25**

'The kingdom of God is in the midst of you.'

At that time: Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus answered them, 'The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, "Look, here it is!" or "There!" for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.'

And he said to the disciples, 'The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. And they will say to you, "Look, there!" or "Look, here!" Do not go out or follow them. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.'

Short reflection on the reading for today
There is an Easter poem by Joseph Mary Plunkett which begins, 'I see his blood upon the rose and in the stars the glory of his eyes.' All nature reminded him of God. He had a keen eye, a spiritual eye for the diversity of God's creation. However, the Pharisees seemed to lack that keen eye. They wondered when the kingdom of God was to come, but were blind to the signs of God's work already being done among them. One of the great sayings of Jesus is that "the kingdom of God is among you,' referring to all that was happening in his own ministry, his words and actions. The lifegiving God was at work among them but many people could not see it, but felt threatened by the miracles of Jesus.
The presence of God continues among us in Our Lord, and through the Holy Spirit. What Paul calls the fruit of the Spirit is present in people's lives, the first fruit of the final harvest of the kingdom of God. We need the vision of faith (*sensus fidei*) to see signs of God's action among us, even in our own time and place, in a culture that seems hostile to faith.

These are the readings for the memorial

First reading

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13

'To the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.'
Brothers and Sisters: I, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call — one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. And he gave the Apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 1:1-2. 3. 4, 6. ℟ Psalm 40(39):5a
His delight is the law of the Lord.
or: Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.
or: The just one will flourish like the palm tree in the courts of the Lord.
Blessed indeed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the path with sinners, nor abides in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord, and who ponders his law day and night.
He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season, and whose leaves shall never fade; and all that he does shall prosper.
Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they, like winnowed chaff, shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Gospel Acclamation **Jn15:9,5**
Alleluia, alleluia!
Remain in my love, says the Lord;
whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty.
Alleluia!

Gospel **John 17:20-26**

'May they become perfectly one.'
At that time: Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven, and praying said, 'Holy Father, I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you,

Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'