Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

26th November 2026

First reading

Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a

'Fallen is Babylon the great!'

I, John, saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. And he called out with a mighty voice, 'Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.

Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, 'So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more; and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters, will be heard in you no more, and a craftsman of any craft will be found in you no more, and the sound of the mill will be heard in you no more, and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.'

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, 'Alleluia! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgements are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.'

Once more they cried out, 'Alleluia! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.'

And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 100(99):1-2. 3. 5. ℟2b

Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy. Know that he, the Lord, is God. He made us; we belong to him. We are his people, the sheep of his flock. Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age.

Gospel Acclamation **Luke 21:28**

Alleluia, alleluia.
Straighten up and raise your heads,
because your redemption is drawing near.
Alleluia.

Gospel **Luke 21:20-28**

'Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.'

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, for these are days of vengeance, to fulfil all that is written. Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

‘And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

Today’s gospel is dark and sombre. It predicts the destruction of Jerusalem, with awful consequences for its inhabitants. It speaks of mighty disturbances in the cosmos that will terrify people everywhere. Yet, just when all is at its darkest, the Son of Man will appear in power and glory bringing redemption, liberation, to all who trust in him.

There are times when things feel so dire that we resonate to the sombre words of W. B. Yeats, “Things fall apart, the centre cannot hold.” Public disorder, criminal behaviour, personal illness, things over which we have little or no control, can leave us deeply shaken. But in those crises when we are most aware of our frailty the Lord is always near. Our risen saviour gives strength in our weakness. He can dissolve our fears and stiffen our resolve to “stand erect with heads held high.” Whenever darkness seems over us we need to hang on tightly, for the light of God shines on and the darkness will not overcome it.

Remember the great beatitude in the Apocalypse: “Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”