

Reading for the Weekday in Ordinary Time

3rd October 2026

First reading

Job 42:1-3. 5-6. 12-17

‘Now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself.’

Job answered the Lord and said: ‘I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. “Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?” Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.’

And the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. And he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. He had also seven sons and three daughters. And he called the name of the first daughter Jemimah, and the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-happuch. And in all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job’s daughters. And their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. And after this Job lived for one hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons’ sons, four generations. And Job died, an old man, and full of days.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 119(118):66, 71. 75, 91. 125, 130. ~~135~~135a

Let your face shine forth on your servant, O Lord.

Teach me good judgement and knowledge, for I trust in your commands.

It was good for me to be humbled, that I might learn your statutes.

O Lord, I know that your decrees are right, and that in faithfulness, you humbled me.

Your judgements endure to this day, for all things are your servants.

I am your servant; give me understanding: then I shall know your decrees.

The unfolding of your word gives light, and understanding to the simple.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,

you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 10:17-24

‘Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.’

At that time: The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!’ And Jesus said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.’

In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding, and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.’

Then turning to the disciples he said privately, 'Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.'

Short reflection on the reading for today

It is natural to take pride in our work, especially if we have done it well. Just look at the disciples in today's gospel. They return to Jesus from successful mission. It went so well that "even demons submit to us when we use your name." He praises their success, but asks them to focus on something more fundamental. They should rejoice not so much for tangible success but for the fact that their names are "written in heaven."

Our relationship with God can give us real joy. It is that special gift of grace that gives us peace. We can identify with the disciples when Jesus tells them, "Happy the eyes that see what you see." They recognised the presence of God in the person of Jesus and in his love for them. That is why they can rejoice.

Having a share in Jesus' relationship with God is a precious gift. It lets us see and hear what faithful people in the Old Testament longed to see and hear, and it is the bedrock of Christian happiness. Even when our working life is over and there is little more we can do, it's all worthwhile because of our ongoing relationship with our heavenly Father.