

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

17th February 2026

First reading

James 1:12-18

'God himself tempts no one.'

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God', for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is fully grown, brings forth death.

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers and sisters. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94(93):12-13a. 14-15. 18-19. R/12a

Blessed the man whom you discipline, O Lord.

Blessed the man whom you discipline, O Lord,

whom you train by means of your law;

to whom you give peace in evil days.

The Lord will not forsake his people,

nor abandon his own inheritance;

for judgement shall again be just,

and all true hearts shall uphold it.

When I think, 'I have lost my foothold,'

your mercy, O Lord, holds me up.

When cares increase in my heart,

your consolation calms my soul.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia.

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord,

and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 8:14-21

'Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod.'

At that time: The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. And he cautioned them, saying, 'Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.' And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, 'Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?' They said to him, 'Twelve.' 'And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?' And they said to him, 'Seven.' And he said to them, 'Do you not yet understand?'

Short reflection on the reading for today

James muses about the power to endure temptation and looks to a bright future when we will be like the first fruits of God's new creation. In Mark, the disciples are worried that they have too little bread, as they embark on a hard pull across the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus' response to their anxiety turns into a volley of questions: "Do you still not see or comprehend? Are your minds completely blinded? Have you eyes but no sight, ears but no hearing? Do you not remember how I broke the five loaves...?" The gospel ends on the question: "Do you still not understand?"

Like Jesus, James urges us to attend to the spiritual side of life. How else can one persevere till the end unless by having a deeply rooted hope. This casts light on James' final phrase, that God wants to make us "a kind of first-fruit of his creatures." The Word within our heart, produces good fruit in our lives. If at times, we are full of doubts and questions, he wants us to keep wondering, seeking, and most of all just *being* in God's presence.