

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

16th February 2026

First reading

James 1:1-11

'The testing of your faith produces steadfastness, that you may be perfect and complete.'

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

Count it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 119(118):67-68. 71-72. 75-76. R/77a

Show me compassion, O Lord, that I may live.

Before I was humbled, I strayed,

but now I keep your word.

You are good, and you do what is good;

teach me your statutes.

It was good for me to be humbled,

that I might learn your statutes.

The law from your mouth means more to me
than large quantities of silver and gold.

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

Let your merciful love console me
by your promise to your servant.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 8:11-13

'Why does this generation seek a sign?'

At that time: The Pharisees came and began to argue with Jesus, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, 'Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.' And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side.

Short reflection on the reading for today

If faith is central to biblical religion, we need to keep our faith authentic. Today's gospel says that authentic faith is not primarily based on miracles. When some critics want to test Jesus and ask him for some heavenly sign, he sighs and regrets the weakness of their faith.

St James, whose Epistle we began to read today, points out that true faith it put to the text. It is authentic, if it helps us through every sort of trial. Faith that is tested makes for endurance and it keeps a person steadfastly holding on to God. It is not an arrogant self-confidence but a trust based on God's fidelity. Such a level of faith helps us through dark times, with hope for new life.