

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

22nd October 2026

First reading

Ephesians 3:14-21

‘Be rooted and grounded in love that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.’

Brothers and Sisters: I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith — that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33(32):1-2. 4-5. 11-12. 18-19. R5b

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting from the upright.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp; with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

The word of the Lord is upright, and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth.

The designs of the Lord stand for ever, the plans of his heart from age to age.

Blessed the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen as his heritage.

Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love,

to rescue their soul from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 3:8-9

Alleluia, alleluia.

I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish,
in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 12:49-53

‘I have not come to give peace but division.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptised with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided: three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

In the gospel today Jesus is fully caught up in the doing the Father's will. The language is emotional, "How I wish the blaze were ignited!" He is thinking about his coming passion and death. He was "firmly resolved to go to Jerusalem" where he would meet his fate. Yet, when the time came for his arrest, Jesus was plunged into agony. He prayed in Gethsemane, "Father, if it is your will, take this cup from me.".. and in terrible anguish he prayed so intensely that he sweated like drops of blood (Lk 22:42,44). It is in this context that he talks of what conflicts his followers may have to face. Bitter arguments about faith can split families apart, each faction resenting the other. But such divisions need not last, because Jesus has a unique ability to break down barriers and even to bond Jew and gentile, male and female, servant and free into one united people. Only in this way can the justice of God, and God's plan for the world, be fully accomplished.