

Reading for Weekday in ordinary Time

20th October 2026

First reading

Ephesians 2:12-22

‘He himself is our peace, who has made us both one.’

Brothers and Sisters: Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy Temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 85(84):9ab, 10. 11-12. 13-14. R8

Behold, our God will come and save us.

I will hear what the Lord God speaks; he speaks of peace for his people and his faithful.

His salvation is near for those who fear him, and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have kissed.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth, and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Righteousness will march before him, and guide his steps on the way.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 21:36

Alleluia, alleluia.

Stay awake at all times,

praying that you may have strength to stand before the Son of Man.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 12:35-38

‘Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service, and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!’

Short reflection on the reading for today

Imagine the head of the house putting on an apron, getting the staff to sit at the dinner table and serving the meal to them. This would be most unusual either then or now. It brings to mind the scene in John's gospel where Jesus wraps a towel round his waist and washes the feet of his disciples. It appears that he wants to serve us, wants to be our servant. Normally, the roles of boss and servant are poles apart, but in Jesus they are combined.

The master's act of service is a reward for the staff's faithfulness to duty. He wants us to be equally faithful, and be ready to open the door when he knocks. There is a saying of Jesus in the Book of Revelation, "behold, I stand at the door and knock." It makes us think that perhaps he is always knocking at the door of our lives, giving us a chance to welcome him. If we respond to his knock, he assures us that his reward will be well worthwhile.