

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

7th September 2024

First reading

1 Corinthians 4:6-15

What do you have that was not given to you?

Take Apollos and myself as an example and remember the maxim: 'Keep to what is written.' It is not for you, so full of your own importance, to go taking sides for one man against another. In any case, brother, has anybody given you some special right? What do you have that was not given to you? And if it was given, how can you boast as though it were not? Is it that you have everything you want – that you are rich already, in possession of your kingdom, with us left outside? Indeed I wish you were really kings, and we could be kings with you! But instead, it seems to me, God has put us apostles at the end of his parade, with the men sentenced to death; it is true – we have been put on show in front of the whole universe, angels as well as men. Here we are, fools for the sake of Christ, while you are the learned men in Christ; we have no power, but you are influential; you are celebrities, we are nobodies. To this day, we go without food and drink and clothes; we are beaten and have no homes; we work for our living with our own hands. When we are cursed, we answer with a blessing; when we are hounded, we put up with it; we are insulted and we answer politely. We are treated as the offal of the world, still to this day, the scum of the earth.

I am saying all this not just to make you ashamed but to bring you, as my dearest children, to your senses. You might have thousands of guardians in Christ, but not more than one father and it was I who begot you in Christ Jesus by preaching the Good News.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 144(145):17-21

The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

The LORD is just in all his ways
and holy in all his works.

The LORD is near to all who call upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth.

He fulfils the desire of those who fear him,
he hears their cry and saves them.

The LORD keeps all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

May my mouth speak the praise of the LORD,
and may all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

Gospel Acclamation

cf. Ps26:11

Alleluia, alleluia!

Instruct me, Lord, in your way;
on an even path lead me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 6:1-5

The Son of Man is master of the sabbath

One sabbath Jesus happened to be taking a walk through the cornfields, and his disciples were picking ears of corn, rubbing them in their hands and eating them. Some of the Pharisees said, 'Why are you doing something that is forbidden on the sabbath day?' Jesus answered them, 'So you have not read what David did when he and his followers were hungry – how he went into the house of God, took the loaves of offering and ate them and gave them to his followers, loaves which only the priests are allowed to eat?' And he said to them, 'The Son of Man is master of the sabbath.'

Short reflection on the reading for today

For Jesus, it was perfectly right to satisfy one's hunger on the Sabbath, especially for people like his disciples who were never sure where they would find their next meal. After defending his friends, Jesus declares that he himself is Lord of the Sabbath. Sunday is our Christian Sabbath, and on it, any work which serves the basic needs of others is allowed. The deeper meaning of Sabbath is as the day when we try to do God's work, and that means responding to the needs of others as Jesus did.