

Reading for Memorial of St Bonaventure

15th July 2026

First reading

Isaiah 10:5-7, 13-16

‘Shall the axe boast over him who hews with it?’

Thus says the Lord:

Woe to Assyria, the rod of my anger; the staff in their hands is my fury!

Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

But he does not so intend, and his heart does not so think;

but it is in his heart to destroy, and to cut off nations not a few.

For he says:

‘By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I have understanding;

I remove the boundaries of peoples, and plunder their treasures;

like a bull I bring down those who sit on thrones.

My hand has found like a nest the wealth of the peoples;

and as one gathers eggs that have been forsaken,

so I have gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved a wing

or opened the mouth or chirped.’

Shall the axe boast over him who hews with it, or the saw magnify itself against him who wields it?

As if a rod should wield him who lifts it, or as if a staff should lift him who is not wood!

Therefore the Lord God of hosts will send wasting sickness among his stout warriors,

and under his glory a burning will be kindled, like the burning of fire.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94(93):5-6. 7-8. 9-10. 14-15. R14a

The Lord will not forsake his people.

They crush your people, Lord; and they humble your inheritance.

They kill the widow and the stranger, and murder the fatherless child.

And they say, ‘The Lord does not see; the God of Jacob pays no heed.’

Mark this, you senseless people; fools, when will you understand?

Can he who planted the ear not hear? Can he who formed the eye not see?

Will he who trains the nations not punish? Will he who teaches man not have knowledge?

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.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,

you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 11:25-27

‘You have hidden these things from the wise and revealed them to little children.’

At that time Jesus declared, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.’

These are the readings for the memorial

First reading

Ephesians 3:14-19

‘To know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.’

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 119(118):9-10. 11-12. 13-14. R12b

Teach me, O Lord, your statutes.

How shall a youth remain pure on his way?

By obeying your word. I seek you with all my heart;

let me not stray from your commands.

I treasure your word in my heart, lest I sin against you.

Blest are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

With my lips have I recounted all the decrees of your mouth.

I rejoice in the way of your precepts, as though all riches were mine.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt23:9,10

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have only one Father, and he is in heaven;

you have only one Teacher, the Christ.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 23:8-12

‘The greatest among you shall be your servant.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘You are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers and sisters. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

We get a privileged glimpse into the prayer life of Jesus. We are familiar with his prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane when he asked, 'Father, take this cup from me.' The prayer of Jesus in today's gospel is one of praise, beginning, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth.' Jesus praises God for the mysterious ways that God works, ways that seem paradoxical to human observation. Jesus blesses God for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children.

It is not the religious experts, the teachers of the Jewish Law, who are coming to know God as revealed by Jesus. Rather, it is those who would have been considered religiously and theologically illiterate who through his ministry are coming to know God. Those who *claim* to know already are closed to learning about God from Jesus; those who are aware of how little they know are open to receiving the revelation of God that Jesus brings. The gospel reminds us that it is those who are aware of their own need, their own poverty before God, who will be open to whatever God wants to communicate to us through his Son.