

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

14th January 2026

First reading

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20

‘Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.’

In those days: The boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the Temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

Then the Lord called Samuel, and he said, ‘Here I am!’ and ran to Eli and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call; lie down again.’ So he went and lay down.

And the Lord called again, ‘Samuel!’ and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call, my son; lie down again.’ Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, ‘Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.”’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant hears.’

And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 40(39):2. 5. 7-8a. 8b-9. 10. R8a, 9a

Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord,

and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry.

Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord,
and has not gone over to the proud who follow false gods.

You delight not in sacrifice and offering, but in an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and sin offering.

Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come.’

In the scroll of the book it stands written of me:

‘I delight to do your will, O my God;
your instruction lies deep within me.’

Your uprightness I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord,
and I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia.

Gospel**Mark 1:29-39****'He healed many who were sick with various diseases.'**

At that time: Jesus left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, 'Everyone is looking for you.' And he said to them, 'Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is what I came for.' And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Short reflection on the reading for today

Young Samuel ran to the old priest and said anxiously, "Here I am. You called me!" This happened three times, and each time old Eli told him, "I did not call you. Go back to sleep." The Hebrew sounds quiet and mellow, a whispering play on words: *Lo'kerati beni; shub shahab*. Finally, old Eli advises that if God should call again, he should answer, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." And so Samuel became a prophet, a spokesman for God, who changed the course of Israel's history. His tranquil home life at the sanctuary at Shiloh was disrupted by the call to become God's prophet.

There are echoes of another prophetic vocation in today's gospel. After preaching in the synagogue, Jesus goes to Peter's home in Capernaum and finds Peter's mother-in-law in bed with a fever. How normal it was for him to notice when people were ill; and not to just stand there as a spectator. He took her by the hand and helped her up, "and the fever left her." Remarkably, the newly-recovered woman offers hospitality to Jesus and his friends. Then the crowds gather, the sick are laid at the doorstep, and mentally deranged people are freed of the demon within them.

The hubbub was too much even for Jesus. Early next morning, he went off to a lonely place to spend time in prayer. But word had gone out and he was tracked down by Simon with the reproach, "Everyone is looking for you." He responded by moving about among the neighbouring villages to preach... "for that is what I have come to do." Like Samuel, Jesus had a strong sense of mission, to do God's work. He wants us also to be faithful to our calling; to share his spirit with others, and take time out for prayer and reflection. In our own way, we take our part in Jesus' vocation in life.