

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

24th October 2026

First reading

Ephesians 4:7-16

‘Christ is the head who makes the whole body grow.’

Brothers and Sisters: Grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

Therefore it says, ‘When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.’

In saying, ‘He ascended’, what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions of the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. And he gave the Apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 122(121):1-2. 3-4a. 4b-5. Rcf.1

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’

And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.

As it is decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

There were set the thrones for judgement, the thrones of the house of David.

Gospel Acclamation

Ezekiel 33:11

Alleluia, alleluia.

I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, says the Lord,

but that the wicked turn from his way and live.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

‘Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.’

There were some present at that very time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, ‘Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.’

And he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vine dresser, “Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?” And he answered him, “Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig round it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”’

Short reflection on the reading for today

All parables make us ponder what they might mean. Jesus imagines a withering fig tree that has failed to bear fruit for the past three years. The reaction of the owner seems quite normal. That fig tree must be cut down because it is only wasting space in the vineyard.

But the gardener had a different perspective. Looking closely at the ailing fig tree he saw that with care it could still bear fruit. Experience had taught him a more hopeful vision. With the help of some fertiliser all was not lost and the fig tree could revive and fruit again.

This is how God regards us. In spite of what we have failed to do up to now, He knows all we are capable of doing in the future. God sees the potential in each of us; and indeed, that's how we must regard each other and everything in life, with hopeful eyes. Like the vineyard gardener, we need to be patient, able to wait, ready to see beneath the unpromising surface to the faint green shoots of new potential.