

## Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

7th July 2026

### First reading

**Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13**

**‘They sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind.’**

Thus says the Lord:

They made kings, but not through me. They set up princes, but I knew it not.

With their silver and gold they made idols for their own destruction.

I have spurned your calf, O Samaria. My anger burns against them.

How long will they be incapable of innocence?

For it is from Israel; a craftsman made it; it is not God.

The calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces.

For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind.

The standing corn has no heads; it shall yield no flour;

if it were to yield, strangers would devour it.

Because Ephraim has multiplied altars for sinning, they have become to him altars for sinning.

Were I to write for him my laws by the ten thousands, they would be regarded as a strange thing.

As for my sacrificial offerings, they sacrifice meat and eat it, but the Lord does not accept them.

Now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins; they shall return to Egypt.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 115(113b):3-4. 5-6. 7ab, 8. 9-10. R9a**

*House of Israel, trust in the Lord.*

*or: Alleluia.*

Our God is in the heavens;

he does whatever he wills.

Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

They have mouths but they cannot speak; they have eyes but they cannot see.

They have ears but they cannot hear; they have nostrils but they cannot smell.

They have hands but they cannot feel; they have feet but they cannot walk.

Their makers will come to be like them, as will all who trust in them.

House of Israel, trust in the Lord; he is their help and their shield.

House of Aaron, trust in the Lord; he is their help and their shield.

### Gospel Acclamation

**John 10:14**

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord.

I know my sheep and my own know me.

Alleluia.

## **Gospel**

## **Matthew 9:32-38**

### **‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few.’**

At that time: Behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to Jesus. And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marvelled, saying, ‘Never was anything like this seen in Israel.’ But the Pharisees said, ‘He casts out demons by the prince of demons.’

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’

### **Short reflection on the reading for today**

Stories of the blind, deaf, and mute in the Gospels always have a deeper meaning. Far more serious than physical blindness, deafness and an inability to speak are being spiritually blind, deaf and mute. The Pharisees in the Gospels represent such people, and we see it happening in this story. They are blind because they cannot see or do not want to see God at work in Jesus. They are deaf because they do not hear or do not want to understand what he says. And they are also mute because they cannot speak the words of life that Jesus gives them.

The very same can happen to each one of us. Let us pray today to be able to see clearly, to understand what God says to us and to be able to share it with others.

But behind all that Jesus does, is his deep compassion for the needs of the people. He sees them harassed and dejected, wandering and aimless, like sheep without a guiding shepherd—a familiar image in the Old Testament (see Ezekiel 34). Then, looking at his disciples, he says:

*The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few...*

Jesus cannot do it all on his own. In fact, he will hardly step outside the boundaries of Palestine. He needs many helpers.

Today, the situation has not changed. The harvest is as big as ever; people are as lost and rudderless as they have ever been in spite of the great strides in knowledge we have made. Where are the labourers? They are not just the bishops, the priests or the religious brothers and sisters. That is a very narrow concept of labourers.

Every single baptised person is called, in some way, to be a harvester, to help people find and experience the truth and love that God gives in Jesus. Every single person, in that sense (and it is a very real sense) has a vocation, a call to serve and to build the Kingdom. What and where and with whom is my vocation?