Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

19th November 2026

First reading

Revelation 5:1-10

'The Lamb was slain and by his blood has ransomed us from every nation.'

I, John, saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one of the elders said to me, 'Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying,

'Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 149:1-2. 3-4. 5-6a, 9b. ℟4a

You have made us a kingdom and priests to our God.
or: Alleluia.

Sing a new song to the Lord, his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its Maker; let Sion's children exult in their king.
Let them praise his name with dancing, and make music with timbrel and lyre.
For the Lord takes delight in his people; he adorns the poor with salvation.
Let the faithful exult in glory, and rejoice as they take their rest.
Let the praise of God be in their mouths This is an honour for all his faithful.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Psalm 95(94):8a, 7c

Alleluia, alleluia.
Harden not your hearts today,
but listen to the voice of the Lord.
Alleluia.

Gospel **Luke 19:41-44**

'Would that you had known the things that make for peace!'

At that time: When Jesus drew near and saw the city of Jerusalem, he wept over it, saying, 'Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade round you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.'

Short reflection on the reading for today

St Luke reports Jesus in in tears of deep sadness because Jerusalem did not receive him, and did not recognize in him the hand of God. The city will now have to live with the consequences of rejecting him. He sheds the tears of a rejected lover. His life's work was to reveal God's hospitable love for all, but many had rejected this good news.

There is a sense in which Jesus is helpless in the face of rejection. All he can do is grieve at human obstinacy. He has come to seek and to save the lost, but he does not force himself on people. We need to be responsive to his searching love. He invites us into his friendship, but every so often we need to say to him, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, 'Stay with us, Lord, for the day is now nearly over.'