

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

4th September 2026

First reading

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

‘The Lord will disclose the purposes of the heart.’

Brothers and Sisters: This is how one should regard us: as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgement before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 37(36):3-4. 5-6. 27-28. 39-40. R39a

The salvation of the upright comes from the Lord.

Trust in the Lord and do good; then you will dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

Find your delight in the Lord, who grants your heart's desire.

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act,

and make your uprightness shine like the light, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

Then turn away from evil and do good, and you may abide for ever;

for indeed, the Lord loves justice, and will never forsake his faithful.

But from the Lord comes the salvation of the upright, their stronghold in time of distress.

The Lord helps them and rescues them, rescues and saves them from the wicked:

because they take refuge in him.

Gospel Acclamation

John 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;

whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 5:33-39

‘When the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast.’

At that time: The Pharisees and scribes said to him, ‘The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink.’ And Jesus said to them, ‘Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.’ He also told them a parable: ‘No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, “The old is good.”’

Short reflection on the reading for today

What a pity it is when people jump to rash judgment about others. Instead of seeing the good being done by the followers of Jesus, his critics complain that they should be showing more signs of fasting and praying.

Habitual critics never approve what others do, but always find fault. When he heard himself despised by some of the Corinthians Paul says, "It matters little to me whether you or any human court pass judgment on me. The Lord is the one to judge me." This is spiritually true of all of us: we can only be thoroughly judged by God alone. Only the Spirit fully knows the hidden intentions of the human heart. The Pharisees could not recognise the mysterious divine power in the words and actions of Jesus. They wanted to keep religion under strict control, and were not open to the God of surprises. Trying to put the Gospel message into a new rulebook would be like patching a new garment with old material, or pouring new wine into old wineskins. What Jesus brought was something living and new. To receive it, one must be willing to be surprised by grace.