

Reading for the Memorial of St Therese of the Child Jesus

1st October 2026

First reading

Job 19:21-27

‘I know that my Redeemer lives.’

Job said, ‘Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me? Why are you not satisfied with my flesh?’

‘Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock for ever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 27(26):7-8b. 8c-9c. 13-14. R8b

I believe I shall see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living.

O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer me.

Of you my heart has spoken, ‘Seek his face.’

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help.

I believe I shall see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; be stout-hearted, and wait for the Lord!

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia.

The kingdom of God is at hand;
repent and believe in the gospel.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 10:1-12

‘Your peace will rest upon him.’

At that time: The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, ‘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. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no money bag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, “Peace be to this house!” And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the labourer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you.” But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, “Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.” I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

When Jesus sent out his troops on their missionary explorations, he knew that the receptions they were likely to receive would vary considerably. Some would be charmed with how they were accepted, whilst others would be appalled. Those on assignment were to let people know that God was very close to them; Christ knew that the disciples would need to have had that experience for themselves if they were to have any effect on their listeners. How effective have we been in getting that message across?

A harvest can be ruined by a lack of workers. A field full of fruit can go to waste when there are not enough people to pick the fruit. The world is the harvest of God where his love and his word are sown. Without the followers of Jesus, the word is unspoken and even the love of God is unrecognised. Prayer can increase our desire to spread the word and love of Jesus Christ in our immediate surroundings. These instructions of Jesus seem to be about being single-minded in his service. We put trust in him rather than in having spares of everything or by depending on money. Prayer and service, love of others and of the poor, bring the kingdom near in word and deed.

The Lord had his helpers - people went before him to announce he was coming. The kingdom of God is never spread on one's own. As a community we listen to the word of God and respond. Team work is the way forward for any Christian community. Prayer helps us recognise the gifts and talents of everyone, and the dignity of each of us in the sight of God.

These are the readings for the memorial

First reading

Isaiah 66:10-14c

‘Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river.’

Thus says the Lord: ‘Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her;

rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her;

that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast;

that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious abundance.’

For thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river,

and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream;

and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, and bounced upon her knees.

As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you;

you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;

your bones shall flourish like the grass; and the hand of the Lord shall be known to his servants.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 131(130):1. 2. 3.

Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor haughty my eyes.

I have not gone after things too great, nor marvels beyond me.

Truly, I have set my soul in tranquillity and silence.

Like a weaned child on its mother, as a weaned child is my soul within me.

O Israel, hope in the Lord, both now and for ever.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father,

Lord of heaven and earth,

for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom

to mere children.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 18:1-5

‘Unless you become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.’

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’ And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, ‘Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me.’

