

Reading for the Memorial of St Jerome

30th September 2026

First reading

Job 9:1-12, 14-16

‘How can a man be in the right before God?’

Then Job answered and said: ‘Truly I know that it is so:

But how can a man be in the right before God?

If one wished to contend with him, one could not answer him once in a thousand times.

He is wise in heart and mighty in strength — who has hardened himself against him, and succeeded? —

he who removes mountains, and they know it not, when he overturns them in his anger,

who shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble;

who commands the sun, and it does not rise; who seals up the stars;

who alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea;

who made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the chambers of the south;

who does great things beyond searching out, and marvellous things beyond number.

Behold, he passes by me, and I see him not; he moves on, but I do not perceive him.

Behold, he snatches away; who can turn him back?

Who will say to him, “What are you doing?”

How then can I answer him, choosing my words with him?

Though I am in the right, I cannot answer him; I must appeal for mercy to my accuser.

If I summoned him and he answered me, I would not believe that he was listening to my voice.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88(87):10b-11. 12-13. 14-15. R3a

I call to you, Lord, all day long; to you I stretch out my hands.

Will you work your wonders for the dead? Will the shades rise up to praise you?

From the grave, who can tell of your mercy? From the place of perdition, your faithfulness?

Will your wonders be known in the dark, in the land of oblivion, your uprightness?

But I, O Lord, cry out to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you.

Why do you reject me, O Lord? Why do you hide your face from me?

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 3:8-9

Alleluia, alleluia.

I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish,

in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 9:57-62

‘I will follow you wherever you go.’

At that time: As Jesus and his disciples were going along the road, someone said to him, ‘I will follow you wherever you go.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’ To another he said, ‘Follow me.’ But he said, ‘Lord, let me first go and bury my father.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.’ Yet another said, ‘I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.’ Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

Job takes us back to that austere period after the exile as inviting us to examine how we deal with crisis in life. He replies to Bildad, the second friend who had come to offer his sympathy and comfort in his dark hour.

Like Job, we too live in a world that is vast beyond comprehension as our scientists discover the plethora of planets in an expanding universe. Like Job we must learn to bow in mumble adoration before the God who made it all. Like him too, we grow suspicious of quick, superficial answers which, like fast food or sudden wealth, can do little to satisfy the hunger of the heart.

Three men said they wanted to travel with Jesus, without knowing or even asking what that would involve. When he invited them to join him immediately, two of them asked for a postponement, claiming to have urgent duties to attend to first. We might agree that burying one's father and saying goodbye to one's family were priority duties. Yet, Jesus insists that they come with him, leaving all behind.

It is hard to fathom how the call of Jesus could be so urgent. Following him is never going to be an easy option. He asks for a level of allegiance even greater than what we owe to our blood relatives. There could be times when trying to follow the gospel puts us at odds with those closest to us. However, today's challenging gospel, like any other difficult gospel text, must be set within the wider context of his teaching, to love one's neighbour as oneself.

These are the readings for the memorial

First reading

2 Timothy 3:14-17

'All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching.'

Beloved: Continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 119(118):9-10. 11-12. 13-14. R12b

Teach me, O Lord, your statutes.

How shall a youth remain pure on his way? By obeying your word.

I seek you with all my heart; let me not stray from your commands.

I treasure your word in my heart, lest I sin against you.

Blest are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

With my lips have I recounted all the decrees of your mouth.

I rejoice in the way of your precepts, as though all riches were mine.

Gospel Acclamation

cf.Ac16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,

to accept the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:47-52

‘What is new and what is old.’

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

‘Have you understood all these things?’ They said to him, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’