

## Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

18<sup>th</sup> August 2026

### First reading

**Ezekiel 28:1-10**

**‘You are but a man, and no god, though you make your heart like the heart of a god.’**

The word of the Lord came to me: ‘Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, Thus says the Lord God:

‘Because your heart is proud, and you have said, “I am a god,

I sit in the seat of the gods, in the heart of the seas,”

yet you are but a man, and no god,

though you make your heart like the heart of a god —

you are indeed wiser than Daniel; no secret is hidden from you;

by your wisdom and your understanding you have made wealth for yourself,

and have gathered gold and silver into your treasuries;

by your great wisdom in your trade you have increased your wealth,

and your heart has become proud in your wealth — therefore thus says the Lord God:

Because you make your heart like the heart of a god,

therefore, behold, I will bring foreigners upon you, the most ruthless of the nations;

and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom and defile your splendour.

They shall thrust you down into the pit, and you shall die the death of the slain in the heart of the seas.

Will you still say, “I am a god”, in the presence of those who kill you,

though you are but a man, and no god, in the hands of those who slay you?

You shall die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of foreigners;

for I have spoken, declares the Lord God.’

### Responsorial Psalm

**Deuteronomy 32:26-27b. 27c-28. 30. 35c-36b. R39c**

*I deal death and I impart life.*

I said, ‘I will reduce them to nothing, and blot out a memory of them from the human race.

Yet I feared a goading by the enemy that their foes might not understand.’

‘They declare, “Our hand has triumphed; it is not the Lord who accomplished all this.”

For they are a nation void of good counsel; and there is no discernment in them.’

‘How could one man defeat a thousand, or two put ten thousand to flight

unless their Rock had betrayed them, that the Lord had given them up?’

For the day of their ruin is at hand; and their doom befalls them swiftly.

Indeed, the Lord will vindicate his people; and he will have compassion on his servants.

### Gospel Acclamation

**2 Corinthians 8:9**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus Christ, though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor,

so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Alleluia.

## **Gospel**

### **Matthew 19:23-30**

**‘It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.’**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.’ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, ‘Who then can be saved?’ But Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’ Then Peter said in reply, ‘See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses, or brothers or sisters, or father or mother, or children or lands for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.’

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

The provocative phrase “the first will be last, and the last will be first” is one of those paradoxical statements that can surface anywhere. How many times we hear it remarked as comment on the fall from grace of some celebrity, or indeed of some powerful force in politics or in commerce. But we are not called to fatalism or passivity, to await some unforeseen divine intervention to bring down blatant instances of injustice and oppression. The readings for today prompt a spirit of active faith in the quest of justice.

With this as background, Jesus’ enigmatic sayings about how wealth can mislead and about the first becoming last, about what seems humanly impossible becoming possible by divine grace, should make more sense. He does not explain the paradox about the last becoming first, but to a person of faith, with instincts and values like Ezekiel, and who practices prayer and fidelity, Jesus’ words summon us to the most active response of faith, trusting that eventually “the last will be first.”