

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 22)

ANTIPHON: I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

RESPONSE: I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

LECTOR: The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

LECTOR: He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R.**

LECTOR: You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R.**

LECTOR: Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, Alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Or

When the Lord appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

TODAY'S READINGS Isaiah 25:6-10; Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22:1-14

NEXT WEEK (29th Sunday of Year A) Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; Ps 95; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5; Matthew 22:15-21.

Majellan
Christmas
Cards

Majellan Christmas cards are now on sale for \$12 for a pack of 10. Go to majellan.media/product/christmascards-2026/ or call (03) 9592 2777.



majellan

Not a matter of good fortune



October 11 2026 28th Sunday Year A

There's a bloke at every barbecue who reckons he's got God's number sorted. Do the right thing, say your prayers, front up to Mass, and the Big Fella will give you good crops, healthy kids, and a Bunnings sausage that doesn't fall out of the bread.

Suffering in this view is suffering only happens to the "others," the people who didn't do the right thing. Job is the Bible's answer to that bloke, and it isn't gentle.

We meet Job this Sunday only at the very end of the book, after forty-one chapters most of us have never sat through; chapters in which Job loses everything, sits in the ashes scraping his boils with a bit of broken pottery, and then spends round after round arguing with three "mates" who've turned up to explain exactly what he's done wrong to deserve it. Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar are the ancient world's answer to the fella who messages you after a cancer diagnosis with a theory about your diet. They are wrong. And the author of Job has God say so explicitly.

The book of Job isn't a story that proves the tidy formula: faithful people suffer, then get rewarded for their faith; so be good and God will look after you. In Job, suffering is pointless, and Job never gets an explanation for his suffering. What he gets is God turning up and asking him where he was when the foundations of the earth were laid which, let's be honest, is not really an answer. It's God pulling rank. And Job accepts it anyway, not because the ledger has been balanced, but

because he has encountered the mystery of the divine and he's stopped needing the ledger.

However, there is a trap in this week's reading. Job gets everything back double, new kids included. It's tempting to read that as the happy ending that proves the formula after all. But no new child ever replaces the ten who died, and the text doesn't pretend otherwise. The restoration isn't a reward for Job's faithfulness. It's pure gift; not a prize.

This brings us, gently, to Luke's seventy-two disciples, arriving back from their mission trip thrilled that even the demons obeyed them. Jesus redirects them: don't rejoice because you have been given power over demons; rejoice because you are known to God.

And then that extraordinary prayer of Jesus: "Thank you, Father, for hiding this from the clever and the credentialed, and showing it to the little ones" (Luke 10:21). Job's three mates were the clever and credentialed. Job, ash-covered and furious, turned out to be the little one – not because he was faithful or wise, but because he recognised the presence of God even in his suffering.

So next time someone at the barbecue tells you their good fortune is God rewarding their virtue, feel free to mention Job. Just maybe leave out the boils till after the snags are done.

Ian J Elmer
© Majellan Media 2026