

Second Sunday of the Ordinary of the Year A

Is 49,3.5-6; 1 Cor 1,1-3; Jn 1,29-34

“Being Called / Feeling Called”

INTRODUCTION

Some years ago, a young woman told me how she felt lost, unsure which path to follow after finishing her studies. Every option seemed both possible and overwhelming. One evening, she went for a walk and noticed a single candle flickering in a window. Something about that small light gave her courage. She realized that being called is not only about choosing the path yourself—it is about noticing the invitation, the support, the trust, the strength given to you from outside yourself.

Being called, feeling called—this is a theme for every human being.

Why do I feel called? Why am I drawn to this or that path? Is it because of my talents and abilities? Or is it someone who calls me, who challenges me, who trusts me, and gives me support and strength?

Today's readings speak about our vocation and our witness through God. For a witness, it is not enough that what they say is correct—it must also be true. Let us examine our speech and our lives:

Who is Jesus really to me?

Do I point others toward Him by the way I live my life? This service is meant to help us face these questions—only for our own good.

Let us open our hearts to Jesus and listen to what He wants to tell us today. —*short silence*—

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus Christ,

- Sometimes I feel completely overwhelmed; so much weighs on me. I am often disappointed, and no one shares my worries. Lord, have mercy on us!
- You are the Lamb of God, given for the reconciliation of all. You bear the misunderstanding of many, just as you carried the burden of sins. Christ, have mercy on us!
- Time and again we have experienced that we can trust you, even when worries are great. Time and again we have

experienced that you are willing to help. Lord, have mercy on us!

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Lord Jesus Christ, be very near to us in this celebration.

Let us experience your mercy and generosity.

Remain with us on all our paths.

We honour and praise you, giving thanks to you for all eternity. Amen.

COLLECT

Good God, we may come to you today with everything that moves us: our joy and gratitude, our worries and needs, our limitations and guilt.

We can place all of this into your hands.

You share in our joy, you take upon yourself our burdens, and you forgive our sins.

For this, we thank you and praise you through Jesus, our brother and Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO GLORIA

Let us now lift our hearts in praise, singing with the angels the glory of God who calls and strengthens us:

Gloria in excelsis Deo...

Homily: “Behold the Lamb of God: Called, Sanctified, and Sent”

A Childhood Lesson in Courage

A few years ago, a woman shared a memory from her childhood. She and her younger brother were playing in the fields when a sudden storm frightened them. Her brother froze, but she grabbed his hand and said, “Don’t worry, I’ll carry you through.” Though small, she guided him safely home. Later, she realized she had glimpsed God’s care: protection, guidance, and the call to help another, even when the task seemed beyond her strength. This story mirrors today’s Scripture: we are called, sanctified, and sent, just as Christ came to bear the weight of the world’s sin and invites us into his mission.

Behold the Lamb of God

In the Gospel, John the Baptist declares: “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Familiar words, yet profound. John does not say, “Behold a prophet,” or “Behold a teacher,” but “Behold the Lamb of God.”

The Lamb as Liberation

What does this mean? First, recall Israel in Egypt. Families slaughtered a lamb at Passover so the angel of death would pass over them, delivering them from slavery. The lamb became a symbol of salvation. John points to liberation from the slavery of sin—the singular force that tempts and ensnares us. Later, temple sacrifices of lambs sought atonement, yet none could reconcile humanity fully. Only the Son of God could offer the perfect sacrifice. Each Mass celebrates this self-offering, inviting us to accept salvation in faith.

The Suffering Servant

Isaiah’s Servant Song reminds us: “He was led like a lamb to the slaughter...so that we might have peace with God” (Isaiah 53:7). Jesus’ suffering is not mere tragedy—it is redeeming love. An elderly parishioner once asked, “What should I do when I feel unworthy for Communion?” I reminded her: when we hear, “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,” our sin is atoned for. Responding, “Lord, I am not worthy...” places us in the Lamb’s redeeming hands.

Called to Holiness

Paul in 1 Corinthians emphasizes calling and dignity: “To the saints in Corinth... called to be holy” (1 Cor 1:2–3). Surprising! Saints are holy not by merit, but because Christ is holy. Consider an apprentice struggling with mistakes, yet the master nurtures him. Similarly, God calls each of us—parent, teacher, worker, neighbour—to shine where we stand. Our place in the world is irreplaceable.

Stepping Aside to Witness

John the Baptist’s role was to point others to Jesus,

stepping aside when necessary. A senior parish volunteer once handed her catechism class to a younger teacher, fearing she no longer mattered. She discovered joy in witnessing the mission continue. Stepping back does not diminish witness; it ensures the mission flourishes.

Grace and Peace as Foundation

Paul writes, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 1:3). Grace and peace are gifts, foundations for action. Jesus as the Lamb of God models this: carrying burdens, offering redemption, and calling us to witness love that liberates in families, neighbourhoods, and communities.

Connecting Past, Present, and Future

John’s declaration links past, present, and future: the Passover lamb, temple sacrifices, Isaiah’s servant—all point to Christ. Our Christian life follows the same journey: from the light of Christmas to the cross, resurrection, and ongoing mission. Seeing Jesus only as a baby in a manger misses the full story. The Lamb of God gives himself fully, reconciles, and empowers us to share his light.

Living Our Calling

What does this mean today? Recognize your calling: you are among the “called-out ones,” a light in darkness. Embrace your dignity as a saint—not by merit, but by Christ. Witness faithfully in family, workplace, or community, knowing Christ has carried the ultimate burden. Accept grace and peace, letting them guide your actions and relationships.

Embodying God’s Love

A closing story mirrors the one at the beginning. A young man helped a friend through illness and loss simply by being present, listening, praying, and offering support. Later, the friend said, “I felt God’s love through you.” This captures our calling: to embody God’s mercy and light. Christ bore the world’s weight so we could bear witness in our daily lives.

Conclusion: Stepping into Mission

As we approach the Eucharist, may we echo John and Paul: “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of

the world." Let this be our meditation, our comfort, and our calling. Step into the world renewed, carrying grace, peace, and light to all we meet. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE CREED

In communion with all Christians, we now profess our faith in the God who touches the hearts of people and calls them:

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Good God, we bring you our gifts of bread and wine. Though small, they are signs by which we remember Jesus, your Son and our brother.

Open our eyes to see you and each other. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just,
to give thanks to you again and again, O Lord.
You are so great—how could it be otherwise?
We see what you do in creation, in our daily lives, and in the hearts of people.
You help us where we cannot manage alone. You call us,

even when we feel weak, and you send us forth to serve others.

You even sent your Son to give us support, to walk with us, and to show us the fullness of your love. Jesus became human, sharing in our joys and suffering, guiding us through the storms of life, and revealing your mercy.

Jesus showed us your love, letting us glimpse your divine ways of life, which are always true and inviting. Through him, we are called, sanctified, and sent to bear witness in our families, communities, and the world. Therefore, with hearts lifted and voices raised, we praise you now and forever.

Your love saves us, redeems us, and strengthens us to live according to your will.

So together with the choirs of angels in heaven, we sing your song of praise: **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

EUCARISTIC PRAYER II

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.

(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day for personal meditation:

Lord, as we offer this bread and wine, we recognize the call to witness in our lives. May your Spirit come upon us and these gifts, just as you call us to be witnesses of your love in the world, to speak truth and live faithfully).

**Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the
dewfall, so that they may become for us
the Body and + Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

At the time he was betrayed
and entered willingly into his Passion,
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice
and, once more giving thanks,

he gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR
MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

The mystery of faith.

Therefore, as we celebrate
the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,
we offer you, Lord,
the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,
giving thanks that you have held us worthy
to be in your presence and minister to you.

Optional thematic insertion:

(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day for personal meditation:

*As we recall your death and resurrection, Lord Jesus,
we are reminded that your call to each of us is personal
and profound. Let us live in the light of your presence,*

*drawing strength from this mystery
to be faithful witnesses of your love and mercy).*

Humbly we pray
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.
Remember, Lord, your Church,
spread throughout the world,
and bring her to the fullness of charity,
together with N. our Pope and N. our Bishop, all the clergy.
Remember also our brothers and sisters
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,
and all who have died in your mercy:
welcome them into the light of your face.
Have mercy on us all, we pray,
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse
with the blessed Apostles,
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the
ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may

praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.
Through him, and with him, and in him...Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Through baptism, we have received the Spirit of God, who makes us a community of brothers and sisters.

Let us now pray to God, our Father, together:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, from the shadows that trouble our world and our hearts, from the fear that paralyses and the despair that blinds.

Strengthen our faith, guide our steps, and keep us steadfast in Your light, so that we may walk with courage, hope, and charity, bearing witness to Your love in our families, workplaces, and communities.

Help us to recognize Your call in every moment, to embrace our vocation with joy, trusting in Your promises and rejoicing in Your presence, as we await in hope the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ..

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is fear, let us bring courage;
where there is doubt, let us bring faith;
where there is hurt, let us bring healing;
and where there is darkness, let us bring the light of Christ,
that others may see Your mercy reflected in our lives.
Help us, O Lord, to be channels of Your love,
so that all may hear Your call,
respond in hope,
and walk in Your ways.
May Your peace, which surpasses all understanding,
dwell in our hearts and spread through the world.
You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus calls us to himself.
Come, all who are seeking,
all who long for strength and truth.
Let us receive the Bread of Life.

MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, you have always helped people.
You are the friend I long for—
someone who is always there for me.
When it is quiet and I feel alone,
I sense that you are truly with me.
Help me hear your call each day, and to witness your love
in all I do. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord, we thank you for this gift of your Son.
May we carry the courage, the guidance, and the love
received here into our daily lives,
so that others may see your call in us and be drawn closer
to you. Amen.

SOLEMN BLESSING

May God, who calls us and strengthens us, bless you:
• The Father, who watches over our paths;
• The Son, our faithful Friend;

• The Holy Spirit, who guides and inspires us.
May you walk in faith and courage, now and forever. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to witness the love of God in your life.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Being called is not always about knowing the full path. It is about noticing the call, trusting the One who calls, and stepping forward in faith.
Today, listen for that call, and let your life point others to Christ.

MONDAY- THE SECOND WEEK IN ORD. TIME – YEAR II

1 Sam 15:16–23; Mk 2:18–22

Theme: “New Wine, New Hearts”

INTRODUCTION

When I was a child, my grandmother kept an old clay jar on a shelf in her kitchen. It was cracked, patched, and chipped, but she would not throw it away. One day I asked her why she kept it. She smiled and said, “Because when the jar finally breaks, I will buy a new one—and with a new jar I will make something I’ve never made before.”

Years later, I understood what she meant: **new vessels hold new flavours.**

Today’s readings tell us the same truth. Saul clings to old habits and loses sight of God’s call. But Jesus brings **new wine**, a new way of seeing God, a new joy that comes from knowing the Bridegroom is near.

We stand at this Eucharist as people who often feel cracked or patched by life. Yet the Lord does not discard us—He invites us to become **new vessels for His new**

wine.

We cannot add more days to our life, but we can give more life to our days. Christ, the Bridegroom, is in our midst. He holds on to us; let us hold on to Him.

Let us begin our celebration by opening our hearts to the renewal He desires for us.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus,

You come to make all things new,
yet we cling to the comfort of the familiar.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus,

You offer the new wine of Your love,
yet we choose the safety of old wineskins.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,

You call us to rejoice in Your presence,
yet we remain burdened by fear and doubt.

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the God who delights in new beginnings have mercy on us, wash away our sins, renew our hearts with the freshness of His Spirit, and lead us into everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

God of faithful love,
Your Son comes among us as the Bridegroom whose presence brings joy, healing, and new life. Free us from the habits that bind us to the past, open our hearts to the new wine of Your grace, and make us worthy vessels of the love You pour out in Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY: New Wine, New Hearts

A young craftsman once tried to repair an old leather wineskin inherited from his father. He stitched it, soaked it, shaped it. But the more he tried to restore it, the more it tore. Finally, his father said, “Son, sometimes you cannot fix the old. You must build the new.”

This is the spiritual wisdom Jesus gives us today.

1. Saul and the Danger of Half-Obedience

In the first reading, Saul is not condemned for doing something evil.

He is rejected because he obeyed halfway, listened selectively, and clung to old patterns.

His old wineskin could not hold the new direction God wanted to take Israel.

God desires obedience that is alive, willing, flexible, and faithful—not rigid, fearful, or selective.

2. Jesus: The Bridegroom Who Brings Joy

In the Gospel, Jesus calls Himself the Bridegroom.

He is saying: *“This is not a funeral march; this is a wedding*

feast.”

Life is hard—yes. We suffer, grieve, and carry burdens. But a Christian should not live as if the Bridegroom is absent.

His presence is meant to be a **source of joy**, even in sorrow.

Not laughter, perhaps—but **deep, steady joy that holds us together.**

3. New Wine Requires New Wineskins

Jesus’ images of new cloth and new wine tell us this: You cannot pour the freshness of the Gospel into a heart that refuses to stretch.

God does not simply patch us—He invites us to become new.

Where do we see old wineskins today?

- The rigidity that avoids change.
- The attitude, “I’ve always done it this way.”
- The spiritual routine that never risks love.

- The heart that fears letting go of old hurts, resentments, or patterns.

The Lord is not asking us to be perfect, but to be **open**, supple, renewed.

4. The Bridegroom Is Taken Away—Yet Always Near

Jesus hints at His death:

“The day will come when the Bridegroom is taken away.”

The joy is real, but so is the Cross.

And yet even in the Cross,

He pours new wine—

the wine of the Spirit, the wine of forgiveness,

the wine that makes us new creations.

Closing Story: The New Wineskin

A woman once brought an old wineskin to a leatherworker and asked,

“Can you make it new again?”

He said, “I can soften it... but only if you let me soak it in water,

stretch it, reshape it, and sometimes pull it apart.”

She hesitated.

He smiled and said,

“New wine cannot live in a heart that refuses the touch of renewal.”

So it is with us.

Let us allow Christ to soften us with His mercy, stretch us with His Word, and reshape us with His love—so that we may receive the new wine He longs to pour into our lives.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we bring bread and wine to the altar,

let us also bring the parts of our lives

that need renewal, healing, and new beginnings.

May He who makes all things new transform us by His grace and may they be acceptable to God the Father almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord our God,

receive these gifts of bread and wine

and the hearts that place them before You.
As You change these simple offerings
into the Body and Blood of Your Son,
change us into new creations,
ready to carry the joy of the Bridegroom
into the world He came to save.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
holy Father, faithful and eternal God.

For in Christ Your Son
You came among us as the Bridegroom,
bringing joy to the sorrowful,
new hope to the discouraged,
and new wine to hearts grown weary.

He calls us away from the burdens of the past
into the freshness of Your Spirit,

teaching us that Your love
is ever new, ever faithful, ever life-giving.

And so, with angels and saints,
with the Church renewed in Your grace,
we sing the hymn of Your glory:
Holy, Holy, Holy...

EUCARISTIC PRAYER II

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.

(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day for personal meditation:

*Before sending Your Spirit upon these gifts,
renew also our hearts, O Father.*

*Make us the new wineskins that can receive
the new wine of Your Son's life and love.*

*Stretch our faith, soften our fears,
and dispose us to welcome the presence
of Christ the Bridegroom in this holy mystery.*

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,

so that they may become for us
the Body and + Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.
At the time he was betrayed
and entered willingly into his Passion,
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice
and, once more giving thanks,
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR
MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

The mystery of faith.

Therefore, as we celebrate
the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,
we offer you, Lord,
the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,
giving thanks that you have held us worthy
to be in your presence and minister to you.

(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day for personal meditation:

*As we remember His death and resurrection,
Father, grant that this mystery of new life
may take root within us.*

*Let the sacrifice we celebrate
reshape our ways of thinking and living,
so that we may bear the joy of the Gospel
into a world longing for Your freshness and peace.*

Humbly we pray
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.
Remember, Lord, your Church,

spread throughout the world,
and bring her to the fullness of charity,
together with N. our Pope, N. our Bishop, all the clergy,
and all who serve your people.

Remember also our brothers and sisters
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,
and all who have died in your mercy:
welcome them into the light of your face.
Have mercy on us all, we pray,
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse
with the blessed Apostles,
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the
ages,
we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,
and may praise and glorify you
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him... Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

With confidence in the God who renews all things
and makes His home among us as our Bridegroom,
let us pray in the words Jesus gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil.
Free our hearts from the habits that imprison us
and from the fears that keep us from Your joy.
Grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of Your mercy,
we may always be open to Your renewing grace
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
You came not to burden us
but to bring us the joy of the Bridegroom.
Look not on our sins
but on the faith of Your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity

in accordance with Your will,
who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
the Bridegroom who brings new wine
to hearts ready to receive Him.
Blessed are those called
to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT POST-COMMUNION MEDITATION

Lord Jesus,
You have filled us with the new wine of Your presence.
Let the joy of this sacrament
take root in our lives today.
Make us new,
make us trusting,
make us faithful—
that we may carry Your love
wherever we go.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God of renewal, You have refreshed us
with the Body and Blood of Your Son.
May this holy gift make our lives a living witness
to the joy of the Bridegroom
and prepare us to welcome
the new wine of Your Spirit each day.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SOLEMN BLESSING

May the God who calls you into new life
fill your hearts with His peace. **Amen.**

May Christ the Bridegroom
renew your joy and strengthen your hope. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit
make you faithful vessels
of the new wine of God's love. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son  and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace,
renewed by the joy of the Bridegroom.
Bring His new wine to the world.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“New wine cannot live in an old heart—
let Christ reshape your heart today.”

Tuesday of the Second Week in Ordinary Time – Year II

1 Sam 16,1-13; Mk 2,23-28

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, a teacher visited a classroom of young children. She asked, “What do you think God looks at first when He sees you?”

One child said, “My clothes.” Another said, “My behaviour.” A third whispered, “My mistakes.”

But then a small girl lifted her hand and said, “I think God looks at my heart first.”

Yes—God looks at the heart. And today’s Scriptures tell us exactly that.

God surprises Samuel by choosing David—the youngest, the least likely.

And Jesus surprises the Pharisees by putting the needs of hungry disciples before legal strictness.

Today also marks the beginning of the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**.

We do not seek unity by forcing everyone to look the same,

but by learning to see one another with the eyes of God—eyes that look first at the heart. Let us enter this Eucharist asking the Lord to purify our hearts, widen our compassion, and make us instruments of unity.

PENITENTIAL ACT

God sees more than our failures; He sees our longing to begin again.

Trusting in His mercy, let us acknowledge our sins.

Lord Jesus, You lift up the lowly and surprise us with Your choices: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You place the human person at the centre of God's law: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You call us to walk the path of unity and mercy: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the God who sees the heart and heals the wounds within it pour out His mercy upon you, forgive your sins, renew your spirit, and lead you into the fullness of life.

Amen.

COLLECT

God of surprising choices,
You look beyond appearances and recognize what is hidden in the heart.
Awaken in us a spirit that values people more than rules, compassion more than criticism, unity more than division.
As You chose David and guided him with Your Spirit, choose us again today and shape our lives according to Your will.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOMILY

A traveller once entered a village known for its beautiful clocks. Every home had a hand-crafted timepiece. But he noticed something strange: all the clocks showed different times.
He asked why. The villagers replied, "We set our clocks by the one that matters most to us—our own."

The traveller smiled and said,
“If everyone follows only their own time, no one will ever walk together.”

Scriptural Reflection

Today’s readings show how easily we can become trapped by our own “time,” our own expectations, our own way of measuring what is right.

Samuel enters the home of Jesse expecting God’s choice to match human logic.

The eldest sons pass before him—strong, tall, impressive. But God whispers the unforgettable line:

“Man looks at appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

God chooses **David**, a young shepherd boy, almost forgotten.

God’s ways surprise us, because God sees life from the inside out.

The **Gospel** presents another moment of divine re-ordering.

The Pharisees see Jesus’ hungry disciples plucking grain and immediately judge them by the law.

For Jesus, however, the first question is not, “What rule has been broken?” but

“Who is in need?”

He reminds them—and reminds us:

“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.”

Law is for life, not life for law.

This is not laxity.

Jesus is deeply rooted in the Law, but He refuses to let the Law suffocate mercy.

Here lies the heart of today’s message:

Compassion is God’s favourite law.

And at the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, this is the law we must live.

Unity grows when we look beyond appearances, beyond

labels, beyond traditions—

and see the heart, the hunger, the longing, the humanity of our sisters and brothers.

A group of musicians once gathered to rehearse.

One violinist insisted everyone adjust their tuning to match her instrument.

The conductor quietly walked to a piano, played a single note, and said,

“This is the standard.

All of us tune to this—not to ourselves.”

Unity comes when we tune our hearts to **Christ**, the one note that guides all our harmony.

May we tune our lives to His compassion, and measure everything—not by strictness—but by love.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we present bread and wine, let us also place before the Lord our desire to see as He sees and to love as He loves. Let us pray that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Father almighty..

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of mercy,

accept these gifts and the hearts that offer them.

As bread becomes strength and wine becomes joy, transform our lives into instruments of compassion so that those most in need may find in us a reflection of Your care. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just,

our duty and our salvation,

always and everywhere to give You thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You search the depths of the human heart and choose what the world overlooks.

In every age, You raise up servants who put people before regulations and mercy before judgment.

In Your Son Jesus,

You reveal the true purpose of every commandment:

to restore the weary,
to feed the hungry,
and to bring freedom to those burdened by fear.

As we begin this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,
You call us to see one another with Your eyes,
to welcome Your surprises,
and to walk together in the harmony of Your Spirit.

And so, with all the angels and saints,
we proclaim Your glory,
as we sing (say): **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

EUCARISTIC PRAYER II

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.

(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day for personal meditation:

*Before sending Your Spirit upon these gifts,
we remember how Jesus placed the human person at the
heart of Your law
and revealed that true holiness is found in compassion.
As You anointed David for service and guided him by Your*

*Spirit, so now anoint this community with the same Spirit,
that we may live as people after Your own heart.*

**Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the
dewfall, so that they may become for us
the Body and + Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

At the time he was betrayed
and entered willingly into his Passion,
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks,
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR**

MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

Therefore, as we celebrate
the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,
we offer you, Lord,
the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,
giving thanks that you have held us worthy
to be in your presence and minister to you.

(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day for personal meditation:

Remember, Father, those whose needs cry out for compassion today—

*the hungry, as the disciples hungered in the fields;
the overlooked, as David was overlooked by his brothers;
and all who seek unity among Christians.*

Strengthen us to place their well-being before every other concern, so that our worship may become a living sign of Your mercy.

Humbly we pray

that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church,
spread throughout the world,
and bring her to the fullness of charity,
together with N. our Pope, N. our Bishop, all the clergy,
and all who serve your people.

Remember also our brothers and sisters
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,
and all who have died in your mercy:
welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray,
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse
with the blessed Apostles,
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the
ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,
and may praise and glorify you

through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him...Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Jesus teaches us that God's law serves the good of every person.

With trust in the Father who cares for our needs more deeply than we can imagine, let us pray in the words He gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every form of harsh judgment, fear, and blindness of heart.

Free us from the rigidity that forgets compassion, and from the divisions that wound the Body of Christ.

Grant peace to our days, that, guided by Your Spirit, we may recognize the needs of others, respond with generosity, and walk together as Your children.

As we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
You revealed the Father's mercy
and taught us that every law is meant to serve the good of Your people.

Look not on our sins or on our failures to love, but on the faith of Your Church
and on the longing for unity within Your disciples.
Grant her the peace that heals wounds, the unity that strengthens our witness, and the harmony that reflects Your Heart.
You live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, whose mercy feeds the hungry
and whose love heals the wounded heart.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,

You have fed us with Your own life.

Open our eyes to see as You see,
open our hearts to choose mercy before rigidity,
and open our hands to serve those who hunger
for compassion, for hope, and for unity.

Remain with us now and always. Amen.

May Christ, Lord of the Sabbath,
free you from every burden
and strengthen you in every good work. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,
the giver of unity, peace, and courage,
guide your steps today and always. **Amen.**

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son  and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God of all goodness,

You have renewed us with this holy Sacrament.

May this Eucharist teach our hearts to value every person,
to seek unity over division,
and to serve one another with the generosity of Christ
Himself.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, placing compassion before judgment
and unity before division.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

God looks at the heart—
and He asks us to do the same.

BLESSING

May the God who sees the heart
bless you with wisdom and compassion. **Amen.**

Wednesday of the Second Week in Ord. Time – Year II

Feast of St. Agnes - 1 Sam 17.32-33.37.40-52; Mk 3,1-6

INTRODUCTION

When I was a child, I remember visiting a friend who lived on a farm. He had a tiny dog—more bark than bite! One afternoon, that little dog stood courageously between us children and a large snake that had slid out from under a shed. The dog trembled, but it did not retreat. It stood its ground and barked with all the courage its small body could summon. In the end the snake slithered away, defeated not by strength, but by courage.

That day taught me what the Scriptures remind us today: courage does not always come from size, experience, or strength—it often comes from trust.

And today, on the Feast of St. Agnes, we remember a young girl barely thirteen, who stood before the powers of an empire with a bravery far greater than her years. Like that trembling little dog, Agnes may have seemed small and fragile, but nothing could shake the strength of her trust in Christ.

David, the boy facing a giant, stands firm because he trusts God. Jesus, facing growing opposition, still steps forward to heal. He calls the man with the withered hand to “stand in the middle,” to rise again.

Today, we bring our own fears, weaknesses, “Goliaths”—those problems that look much bigger than our strength. And we ask the Lord to give us the courage of David, the compassion of Jesus, and the steadfast purity and bravery of St. Agnes, so that everything in us that is dried, weary, or afraid may rise again.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus,

you call us to stand before you with honesty and courage.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus,

you heal what is wounded and make whole what is broken.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,

you strengthen the weak and lift up those who fall.

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May God, who looks upon us with mercy,
draw near to all who seek healing and strength.

May he forgive our sins, renew our hearts,
and lead us to walk with confidence in his love,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT

God of the humble and the brave,
you stand beside all who feel small before life's challenges.
As you strengthened David before the giant
and upheld Jesus as he healed in the face of hostility,
fill us with the courage that comes from trust in you.
Let your grace restore what is wounded,
revive what is weary,
and make us instruments of your healing love.
Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son... Amen.

HOMILY

A teacher once told her class to draw a picture of courage.
One child drew a huge mountain.

Another drew a roaring lion.
But one boy drew a tiny bird in a nest on a thin branch—
while a storm raged around it.

When the teacher asked, "Why is this courage?"
the boy answered: "Because the bird trusts the tree."
Today's readings are about that kind of trust. And on this
Feast of St. Agnes, we remember a young girl who stood
like that tiny bird—small in the eyes of the world, yet
unshaken because she trusted the Lord who held her. Her
courage did not come from strength, but from belonging
entirely to Christ.

1. DAVID: THE COURAGE OF TRUST, NOT STRENGTH

Saul looks at David and sees weakness:
"You are only a boy."

Goliath looks at David and sees insignificance.
But God looks at David and sees faith.
David does not trust stones or sling.

He trusts the Lord who has always delivered him.
And with that trust he defeats the giant.
Every believer knows this story not because it is ancient,
but because it is **our** story.
You and I also meet Goliaths—
illness that feels overwhelming,
family conflict that seems unresolvable,
wounds we carry from the past,
burdens we hide inside.
And God whispers:
“Do not look at your smallness. Look at my strength.”

2. JESUS: THE COURAGE TO DO GOOD DESPITE OPPOSITION

In the Gospel Jesus faces a different kind of Goliath:
the cold scrutiny of religious and political leaders.
They watch him, not to learn, but to condemn.

Jesus sees a man with a withered hand.
He could have waited until tomorrow.
He could have avoided trouble.

He could have chosen safety.
But love never waits.
Jesus calls the man into the centre—
into visibility, into dignity, into resurrection.
Mark notes Jesus’ emotions: anger, sorrow, grief.
Yet Jesus channels those emotions into healing.

The leaders respond not with amazement,
but with plotting.
Goodness often exposes the darkness in others.

But Jesus does not allow fear to silence compassion.
Like David, he trusts the Father.

3. WHAT WITHERED HAND IN US NEEDS TO BE HEALED?

Maybe your “withered hand” is discouragement.
Or fear.
Or a relationship gone cold.
Or a dream that has silently died.

Jesus does today what he did then:
he calls us into the centre
—not to shame us, but to restore us.
He does not ask us to be strong; he asks us to stand up.
And when we stand, he heals.

4. WHAT ENEMY IS TOO STRONG FOR US?

We all face battles that seem unwinnable.
But Scripture tells the truth:
The power of the weak, supported by God,
surpasses the strength of the mighty.

David had no armour.
Jesus had no army.
Yet both conquered—
one by trust,
the other by love that rose from the dead.

This is the power of God's kingdom.

A father once took his young daughter swimming.
The waves were strong.
She clung to his neck and trembled.
He said, "Don't be afraid—I'm holding you."
She replied, "I'm not afraid because I'm holding you."

But the father knew the truth:
It was he who held her.

That is our faith.
We think we are holding on to God,
but it is God who holds us.

So today, whatever giant you face,
whatever part of your heart feels withered,
hear the Lord say:
"Stand in the centre.
Do not be afraid.
I am with you." Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As David placed five small stones in the hands of God
and as the man with the withered hand stretched out his
weakness to Jesus,
let us now place upon this altar
our smallness, our fears, and our hopes.

May God make them instruments of his grace.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord our God, receive the gifts we bring
and the lives we offer.

As you once strengthened David
and renewed the man healed by Jesus,
renew in us a spirit of courageous trust.

Let these gifts become for us
signs of your power to restore and to save,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You stand beside the weak
and raise up those who trust in you.

You strengthened David before the giant,
and in your Son Jesus
you revealed a love that heals without fear,
a compassion that is not silenced
by the hardness of human hearts.

His healing word restores our brokenness
and leads us to the freedom of new life.

And so, with angels and saints,
we sing the hymn of your glory:

Holy, Holy, Holy...

EUCARISTIC PRAYER II

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.

(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day for personal meditation:

Father, in every age

you have shown your favour to the small and the humble.

As you accepted David's trust

and as Jesus stretched out his hand to heal the wounded,

look now upon your Church gathered before you.

Strengthen what is weak within us

and let the power of your Spirit overshadow our frailty,

that this offering may become for us

the source of courage and new life).

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,

by sending down your Spirit upon them like the

dewfall, so that they may become for us

the Body and + Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed

and entered willingly into his Passion,

he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,

and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,

FOR THIS IS MY BODY,

WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,

he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks,

he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,

FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,

THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,

WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR

MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

Therefore, as we celebrate

the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,

we offer you, Lord,

the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,

giving thanks that you have held us worthy

to be in your presence and minister to you.

*(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day for personal meditation: **Lord, as we celebrate the death and resurrection of your Son, remember all who stand today before their own Goliaths:***

those burdened by fear, sickness, injustice, or discouragement.

Let the victory of Christ's resurrection take root in every heart that feels defeated, and renew in your people the courage to do good despite opposition, so that the world may see in us the triumph of your love.

Humbly we pray
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.
Remember, Lord, your Church,
spread throughout the world,
and bring her to the fullness of charity,
together with N. our Pope, N. our Bishop, and all the
clergy, and all who serve your people.

Remember also our brothers and sisters
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,
and all who have died in your mercy:
welcome them into the light of your face.
Have mercy on us all, we pray,
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse
with the blessed Apostles,
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the
ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,
and may praise and glorify you
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him...Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

With the confidence of David
and the trust of the man whom Jesus healed,
let us pray to the Father
who holds us in the palm of his hand:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil
and from every fear that shrinks the heart.
Grant peace to our days and strength to our weakness.
By your mercy keep us free from sin
and safe from all that overwhelms us,
as we await in blessed hope
the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you faced hatred with courage
and healed the broken with compassion.
Do not look upon our sins or our fears,
but upon the faith of your Church.
Grant her the peace that flows from your strength
and the unity that comes from your love,
you who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, the strength of the weak,
the courage of the fearful, the healer of all that is wounded.
Blessed are we who are called to share this meal of life.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,
you call us to stand in the centre before you.
In this Eucharist you have touched
our fears, our wounds, our weakness.
Let your strength become our courage
and your love our healing,
so that we may rise again
and bring life to those around us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed by this sacred meal, O Lord,
we ask you to strengthen our faith
as you strengthened David in battle
and the man healed by your Son.
Fill us with the courage to do good,

the wisdom to follow your will,
and the trust to walk with you in all things.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May the God who strengthened David
make you strong in faith. **Amen.**

May Christ who healed the broken
restore whatever in you is wounded. **Amen.**

May the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead
fill you with courage, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

**And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son ☩ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and courage,
trusting that the Lord goes before you.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Courage does not come from being strong—
it comes from trusting the One who is stronger than our
fears.

Thursday of the Second Week in Ord. Time – Year II

1 Sam 18,6-9.19,1-7; Mk 3,7-12

INTRODUCTION

A few years ago, I met a woman who had been sick for a long time. She told me she walked miles every week just to reach a church where she believed she could touch Jesus' presence. She didn't know if anything would happen, but the longing in her heart drove her. This is what we see in today's Gospel: people coming from everywhere, carrying their suffering and their hope, wanting to touch Jesus.

For many of us, attending Mass can become a habit—a routine we "check off" each week. But Mass is more than that. Here, we encounter Jesus. We can bring him our fears, our illnesses, our doubts, our griefs, and our joys, and allow him to touch our hearts and lives with his healing and life-giving love.

The Gospel also reminds us that faith is not for show. Jesus is not interested in performing miracles for spectacle; he acts in obedience to the Father, to reveal God's love.

PENITENTIAL ACT

We come before God, acknowledging that we are often blind to his presence and deaf to his word. Let us ask for mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the source of life and healing. Forgive us for the times we have ignored your call. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you come to us in our brokenness and distress. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, touch our hearts and minds that we may follow you faithfully. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God, who heals our brokenness and restores our souls, forgive your sins, strengthen your hearts in faith, and make you living signs of God's healing love. Amen.

COLLECT

Holy and ever-living God,
you are beyond our understanding, yet you draw near to us. Help us to come before you in humility and reverence, to open our hearts to your healing love, and to find courage and joy in your presence. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOMILY

Several years ago, a young man named David faced the threat of death, not because of anything he had done, but because of another's jealousy. Saul, king of Israel, envied David's success and sought to harm him. But Jonathan, Saul's son, loved David and intervened, showing courage and loyalty. Through Jonathan, David's life was preserved, demonstrating the power of life-giving love, even in the face of danger.

In our world, there are many "Sauls"—people whose jealousy or anger brings destruction. And yet, there are also "Jonathans"—those who act with courage and love, standing up to protect life, encourage faith, or heal

brokenness. Each of us is called to be a channel of God's life-giving power, standing up for truth, mercy, and justice.

Reflection on the Gospel:

Today's Gospel presents a striking picture: people coming from every region—Judea, Galilee, Idumea, Transjordania, Tyre, and Sidon—all pressing toward Jesus. They were afflicted in every way, yet they recognized God's life-giving power at work in Jesus' ministry. They knew he could heal their brokenness.

Jesus' response is interesting. He withdraws from the crowds at times, teaching his disciples and controlling the pace of his ministry. He does not act for spectacle. Healing is not about drama—it is about life. Simply knowing Jesus' name or being awed by miracles is not enough; true faith requires openness, trust, and transformation of life.

In our own lives, we often resemble the crowds. We come to Jesus with our suffering, our hopes, our questions. The Eucharist, the Sacraments, and prayer are ways we "touch" him, allowing his healing and life-giving presence to

flow into us. Like Jonathan, we are also called to help others see Jesus clearly, to guide them toward faith and healing.

Practical Challenge

We can reflect: whom can we help today? Is there someone blinded by jealousy, anger, or despair whom we can show mercy and understanding? How can we be channels of God's life-giving love in families, communities, or workplaces?

Remember David and Jonathan: courage, loyalty, and love saved a life. Today, the Lord calls us to do the same—not only to seek healing for ourselves but to extend his life-giving love to those in need. May we have eyes to see, hearts to care, and courage to act in the service of God's healing presence.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Let us place these gifts on the altar—bread, wine, and our lives—offered to God with hope, trust, and hearts open to his healing presence.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord, we bring before you these gifts, symbols of our labour, our hopes, and our lives. Transform them by your Spirit, that they may become channels of your healing love and grace. May we, nourished by this Sacrament, go forth to touch lives with your life-giving power. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere, to give You thanks, Lord God, holy Father, almighty and eternal.

For You are the God of life, bringing light into darkness, hope to the despairing, and healing to the broken.

Even in our weakness and fear, You call us to trust and place our lives in Your hands. You look with compassion on the forgotten, the suffering, and the lonely, walking with the wounded and revealing Your tender care.

Through Your Son, Jesus Christ, Your love and mercy are made real; He came for the afflicted and searching, calling all to faith, healing, and hope.

Therefore, with angels and saints we proclaim your glory...

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord...

EUCARISTIC PRAYER II

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.

*(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day for personal meditation: **Lord, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that they may become for us the true Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Just as the crowds in Galilee reached out to touch Jesus in faith, may we reach out with open hearts to receive your healing and transforming presence. Let us allow your Spirit to move through us, so that we may bring life, hope, and restoration to those around us.**)*

**Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the**

**dewfall, so that they may become for us
the Body and + Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

At the time he was betrayed
and entered willingly into his Passion,
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice
and, once more giving thanks,
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR
MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

The mystery of faith.

Therefore, as we celebrate
the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,
we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of
salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy
to be in your presence and minister to you.

*(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the
day for personal meditation: **Through this sacrifice, Lord,
make us channels of your life-giving grace. Just as
Jonathan protected David from harm, help us protect,
encourage, and uplift one another. May our lives bear
witness to your mercy and healing, so that the broken, the
poor, and the suffering may encounter your love through
us. May we always act as your hands in a world longing for
restoration and life.**)*

Humbly we pray
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.
Remember, Lord, your Church,
spread throughout the world,
and bring her to the fullness of charity,

together with N. our Pope, N. our Bishop, all the clergy, and all who serve your people.

Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face.
Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ. **Through him, and with him, and in him...Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Jesus, the Son of God, has taught us to pray not only with words, but with hearts that trust in the Father's love. Let us now, in faith and hope, lift our voices together and pray as he taught us, trusting that God hears the longings of our hearts and comes to meet us in our need.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day.
May your Spirit unite us in love, strengthen our hearts, and lead us to live according to your will.
As we pray for ourselves, we also remember those who are struggling, suffering, or walking in darkness.
Inspire us to bring hope where there is despair, courage where there is fear, and life where there is brokenness.
May we be instruments of your mercy, carrying the healing presence of Christ into every home, every community, and every heart that longs for your touch, as we await in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace. Where there is hatred, may we sow love; where there is injury, may we bring forgiveness;

where there is doubt, may we offer trust;
where there is despair, may we carry hope.
Grant us the courage to work for reconciliation,
the patience to endure conflict without bitterness,
and the humility to recognize our own need for healing.
Let your peace reign in our hearts,
so that it may overflow into the lives of all whom we meet,
guiding us to build your kingdom here on earth.
You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb. Come forward with open hearts, trusting in Christ's healing presence. Let this Bread of Life strengthen you, heal you, and empower you to become a channel of his love and mercy to all whom you meet.

MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the Body of Christ, let us pause for a moment of silent reflection. Jesus does not heal with

spectacle or showmanship; he heals quietly, deeply, and personally. His presence in us transforms our hearts and equips us to touch the lives of others. In our families, our workplaces, and our communities, may we bring the life-giving love of Christ to those in need, offering patience, encouragement, and hope.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the gift of this Holy Communion. Nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son, we ask that you strengthen us in faith, heal our brokenness, and inspire us to carry your life-giving love into the world. May the grace we have received shape our thoughts, words, and actions, that we may become instruments of your mercy, peace, and reconciliation to all we encounter. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May Almighty God bless you, who draws near to the broken and the poor.

May he fill you with courage like Jonathan, that you may defend, encourage, and uplift those in need.

May he strengthen you to be a channel of his healing presence, bringing life and hope wherever despair dwells.

And may Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, make you witnesses of his love, guardians of peace, and bearers of joy to all the world. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Carry with you the life-giving touch of Christ, bringing hope to the broken, encouragement to the weary, and healing to those in need. Let your hearts remain open, your hands ready to serve, and your lives be a reflection of God's abundant love.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Like the crowds in Galilee who reached out to Jesus, and like David protected by Jonathan, we are called to reach out in faith and love. In our own brokenness, the Lord offers life. Through our courage, mercy, and compassion, we can bring life, hope, and healing to others. Each act of love and kindness becomes a touch of Christ in the world.

Friday of the Second Week in Ordinary Time – Year II

Feast of St. Francis de Sales - 1 Samuel 24:3-21; Mark 3:13-19

INTRODUCTION

A few years ago, a man shared a story about a conflict that had grown quietly in his heart.

He had been hurt by a close friend — deeply — and for months he carried anger like a stone in his pocket. Then one day he heard a line attributed to St. Francis de Sales:

“The one who forgives gathers twice the harvest: peace for the neighbour, and peace for the heart.”

That simple sentence unsettled him.

Slowly, the stone of resentment loosened. Eventually, he reached out, forgave, and found that the peace he discovered within himself was far greater than the peace he restored with his friend.

Today's first reading tells a similar story — David spares Saul even when he could have taken revenge. It is a moment of radical mercy. And St. Francis de Sales, a pastor in a time of deep religious division, lived this same spirit of gentle strength: **“All for love, nothing by force.”**

As we gather a few weeks into this new year, with resolutions made, broken, or forgotten, one invitation remains unchanged:

the invitation of God to come together, to listen to His Word, and to allow His mercy to shape our hearts.

Let us enter this celebration asking for the grace to be companions of Jesus, as the Twelve were, and to be sent out like them — hearts gentled, strengthened, and guided by the wisdom of St. Francis de Sales.

PENITENTIAL ACT

St. Francis de Sales teaches us that “true humility does not make us timid; it makes us truthful.” Let us stand before God with humble truth as we acknowledge our sins.

Lord Jesus, you call us to be your companions in prayer and disciples in mission: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you invite us to choose mercy over vengeance, as David chose mercy toward Saul: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you strengthen us to be gentle, patient, and

faithful in our daily callings: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the God of compassion look kindly upon us,
forgive our sins, heal our hearts,
and lead us into the peace that comes from walking closely
with His Son, both now and forever. **Amen.**

COLLECT

Gentle and faithful God,
you inspired St. Francis de Sales to guide your people
with patience, clarity, and a heart filled with mercy.

As we hear today how David chose compassion over
vengeance and how Jesus called the Twelve to be His
companions, grant that we may walk the same path of
gentleness and strength.

Shape our hearts in prayer, send us forth with courage,
and let the grace we receive bear fruit in unity and peace.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

In a small town in Savoy, a frightened young student once confided in Francis de Sales that he feared he was beyond God's mercy. Francis smiled gently and handed him a piece of paper. On it were three words:

"God loves you."

Then he added softly, "Write it on your heart every morning — and live the day as someone beloved."

That simple encounter describes the whole spirituality of St. Francis de Sales: gentle truth, compassionate firmness, and a belief that love transforms more deeply than force ever can.

Today's readings give us two powerful scenes.

In the first reading, David stands in the dark of a cave, holding Saul's life in his hands. All logic says: "End it now. Take revenge." But David listens not to instinct but to conscience. He chooses mercy. And in that moment, he becomes a mirror of God's own heart.

In the Gospel, Jesus calls the Twelve — each by name. At that moment, Judas and Peter are equal.

Matthew the tax collector stands beside John the beloved disciple. They are chosen not for holiness but for availability.

Here lies the Salesian message: **God does not ask us to be perfect before calling us. He calls us so that, with Him, we may grow.**

Francis de Sales lived this. He worked among communities divided by theological conflict. He met anger with patience, hostility with clarity, and opposition with quiet charity.

His motto was simple but revolutionary: **“All for love, nothing by force.”**

The Christian life has two movements, as today’s Gospel reveals:

1. **To be with Jesus** — prayer, listening, silence, companionship.
2. **To be sent out** — mission, action, witness.

St. Francis de Sales insisted that holiness is possible *not only for monks and mystics*, but for parents, farmers, widows, soldiers, merchants, teachers — for everyone.

Why? Because holiness begins with **being with Jesus**, and from that place, we are sent. Even David’s act of mercy springs from a heart attuned to God.

A final story from Francis’s ministry:

A woman once told him she had no time for prayer because her household was too busy, too noisy, too demanding. Francis responded with a smile:

“If you cannot pray long, pray short — but never cease to lift your heart to God.

A few drops of water each day keep the soil from hardening.”

That is our invitation today: to keep our hearts soft, to stay close to Jesus, to choose mercy over anger, and to allow His love to shape our steps. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we prepare to bring bread and wine to the altar, let us bring also our desire to grow in gentleness, our longing for unity, and our hope that God may shape us into instruments of peace, as He shaped St. Francis de Sales.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God,
receive the gifts we bring today—
signs of our gratitude,
symbols of our desire to follow your Son more faithfully.
As bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ,
transform our hearts
so that, like St. Francis de Sales,
we may serve you with patience, wisdom, and gentle
strength. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You call your people by name,
as your Son called the Twelve,
and you invite us to walk with Him
in trust, mercy, and humble strength.

In every age you raise up saints,
like St. Francis de Sales,
to guide your Church with clarity of mind
and gentleness of heart,
teaching that your love is stronger than fear
and your grace deeper than human weakness.
Through their witness you form us in compassion,
in unity, and in the quiet courage that comes from you
alone.

And so, with angels and archangels,
with the saints who companion us,
and with all creation resounding with joy,
we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

EUCARISTIC PRAYER II

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.
*(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day for personal meditation: **Lord, you gather us today as you once gathered the Twelve on the mountain, calling each of us by name.***
As David spared Saul, so teach us the ways of mercy;

and as St. Francis de Sales lived gentleness in a divided world, shape in us hearts ready for unity and peace.

Strengthen us now through this sacrament, that we may remain companions of your Son and witnesses of His love).

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and + Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you.

(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day for personal meditation: Remember, Lord, the countless men and women who strive to live your Gospel each day in the quiet places of family life, work, and service. Remember especially all who seek unity among Christians, following the example of St. Francis de Sales, who worked with patience and charity

*to heal divisions and proclaim your truth in love.
Strengthen us in this same spirit,
that the sacrifice we offer today
may bear fruit in peace, reconciliation, and renewed faith.).*

Humbly we pray
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.
Remember, Lord, your Church,
spread throughout the world,
and bring her to the fullness of charity,
together with N. our Pope, N. our Bishop, all the clergy,
and all who serve your people.

Remember also our brothers and sisters
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,
and all who have died in your mercy:
welcome them into the light of your face.
Have mercy on us all, we pray,
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with the blessed
Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you

throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him...Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER

With confidence in God's mercy
and inspired by the gentle faith of St. Francis de Sales,
let us pray for the coming of God's Kingdom
in the words Jesus Himself taught us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, from every kind of fear
that hardens the heart or divides your people.
Grant us the peace that comes from trusting your love,
the courage to forgive as David forgave Saul,
and the gentleness that marked the life of St. Francis de Sales. Keep us faithful as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you said to your apostles,
“Peace I leave you, my peace I give you.”
Look not on our sins,
nor on the divisions that wound your Body, the Church,
but on the faith and longing of your people.
Grant us the peace that is gentle,
the peace that reconciles,
the peace that makes us one in your love.
You live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who gathers the Twelve,
who strengthens the weak,
who calls each of us by name.
Blessed are those called
to the supper of the Lamb.

MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

“Let your heart remain in peace,” St. Francis de Sales once wrote, “even if everything around you is in turmoil.”
As we rest in the presence of Christ whom we have received, let us ask for the grace to leave this place carrying peace, to return to our homes as gentle witnesses, and to live our calling as companions of Jesus in the world.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God of tenderness,
we have received the gift of Christ your Son,
who feeds us with His presence
and strengthens us for His mission.
May this sacrament deepen our desire
to walk closely with Him in prayer
and to serve our brothers and sisters
with the patience and charity shown by St. Francis de Sales.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May the God of mercy who called David to choose peace, bless you with hearts free from fear. Amen.

May Christ the Lord,
who called the Twelve by name,
renew you in prayer and strengthen you for mission. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
who shaped St. Francis de Sales into a gentle shepherd,
form in you a spirit of joy, patience, and unity. Amen.

**And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
to live the Gospel with gentleness and strength.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

**“Holiness is not found in extraordinary things,
but in doing ordinary things with extraordinary love.”**

— St. Francis de Sales

Let this be the guiding line of your week ahead.

FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL —

FULL LITURGY (Sat., 25 JANUARY 2026)

Acts 22:1a, 3–16; Mark 16:15–18

INTRODUCTION

There is a famous story told about a man who visited the great cathedral of Cologne. He stood before the huge stained-glass window depicting Saint Paul’s conversion. It was evening; everything looked dark. But then the caretaker switched on the lights from inside the church, and suddenly the whole window glowed with breathtaking beauty. The man said, “I have been coming here for years, but only now do I see the colours.”

Paul’s life was like that window. His zeal, his passion, his intelligence were always there, but the light had not yet shone through. On the road to Damascus, Christ turned on the light from within, and everything changed. Today we celebrate that moment—when God’s grace broke into a man’s life so powerfully that the persecutor became an apostle, the enemy became a brother, and the sin-blinded eyes were opened to the truth of Christ.

On this final day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we ask for the same grace: that Christ will switch on the light in our hearts, in our communities, and between our Churches.

Let us begin by acknowledging our need for this grace.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus,
You appeared to Saul when he least expected You—
shine Your light on us when we walk in darkness.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus,
You transformed an enemy into a friend and witness—
renew our hearts when they grow narrow or fearful.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
You send us, as You sent Paul, to bring Your Gospel to all peoples— strengthen us for the mission You entrust to us today. **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us into the light of His grace,
that we may walk faithfully in the footsteps of Saint Paul
and follow the call of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE GLORIA

With the whole Church, and with all who have encountered
the mercy of Christ,
let us give glory to God who calls, transforms, and sends.

Glory to God in the highest...

COLLECT

God of sovereign grace,
You called the Apostle Paul from blindness into the
brightness of faith and entrusted him with the Gospel for all
nations.
Open our hearts to Your voice, shake us from whatever
holds us back, and make our lives a living testimony to
Your mercy.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son... **Amen.**

HOMILY

Years ago, a priest visited a prison to speak with a man who had been notorious for his anger and violence. The guards whispered, “He won’t listen to anyone.” Yet when the priest entered the cell, the man said something surprising: “Father, I’m tired of being the man everyone thinks I am. I want to start again.”

The priest later said, “That was the moment grace entered. Not loud, not dramatic—just a door quietly opening in his heart.”

Paul’s conversion story is dramatic—light from heaven, a voice calling his name, blindness, a new mission. Yet at its core, it is the same story: a heart opening to grace. In Acts 22, Paul stands before an angry crowd and tells his story—not to defend himself, but to show that God can turn a life around completely.

Paul believed he was serving God by persecuting Christians. He was sincere, but sincerely wrong. Still, God did not condemn him; Christ called him by name: “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”

That question is the turning point of his life. Christ does not ask, “Why are you persecuting My followers?” but “Why are you persecuting Me?” From that day forward, Paul would understand that to touch the Church is to touch Christ Himself. Then comes Paul’s response—the most important sentence he ever uttered:

“What shall I do, Lord?”

That question changes everything. It is the question of a disciple. It is the beginning of obedience, mission, humility, and unity.

Paul is sent to Ananias—to the Church. The persecutor must be received by the community he once tried to destroy. In this moment, the miracle is not only Paul’s conversion; it is the courage of Ananias, who calls him “Brother Saul.” Unity begins with brave forgiveness.

The Gospel today sends us out: “Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.” Paul took this literally. He crossed seas, cultures, languages, dangers, and divisions. But he never credited himself. “By the grace of God I am what I am.”

Conversion is God's work; cooperation is ours.

Today, as this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity concludes, Paul teaches us three things:

1. No one is beyond God's reach.

If God can transform Saul into Paul, then no heart, no Church, no relationship is too far gone.

2. Conversion is ongoing.

Paul was not converted once; he was converted daily—whenever he humbled himself, forgave, endured suffering, or began again.

3. Unity is mission, not preference.

Paul sought out Peter and the other apostles. He built bridges. Christ still asks us to do the same—in our families, our churches, our communities.

There is a tradition that in the final days of his life, Paul was visited in prison by Christians who thanked him for leading them to Christ. One young believer said, “Paul, if you had not changed your life, mine would never have

begun.” Paul simply replied, “Then Christ has not worked in me in vain.” May the same be said of us.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As Paul once offered his whole life to Christ, let us now offer bread, wine, and our own hearts, trusting that God can transform what we bring into a gift for the world.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord our God, accept these gifts and the desire for conversion they represent. As You transformed Paul into a servant of the Gospel, shape us by this sacrifice into people who carry Your light to those who search for hope. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in every age You call sinners into Your marvellous
light, and in the Apostle Paul

You revealed the power of grace that transforms the
human heart.

Blinded by zeal yet searching for Your truth,
he was overwhelmed by the radiance of the risen Lord
and led by Your hand to the waters of rebirth.

Through him Your word reached nations far and wide;
through him the Church learned to welcome all peoples;
and through him the Gospel was carried with courage,
so that every heart might know Your mercy.

And so, with angels and saints,
and with all whom You have drawn from darkness into
light, we proclaim the hymn of Your glory:
Holy, Holy, Holy...

EUCARISTIC PRAYER II

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.

*(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the
day for personal meditation:*

Before He sent Paul to the nations,

*You prepared his heart through encounter and silence,
teaching us that every mission begins in Your grace.*

*As we gather today, renew in us that same openness to
Your Spirit,*

*that our lives—like Paul’s—may be shaped by Your call
and strengthened for the work of unity and witness).*

**Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the
dewfall, so that they may become for us
the Body and + Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

At the time he was betrayed
and entered willingly into his Passion,
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,

**FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR
MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

The mystery of faith.

Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you.

(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day for personal meditation:

Lord, You turned the persecutor into a herald of peace, and through his conversion You taught the Church that no division is beyond healing and no sinner beyond Your mercy.

As we remember the death and resurrection of Your Son, grant that this sacrifice may reconcile our hearts and strengthen all Christians in the search for unity, so that the world may believe in the Gospel Paul proclaimed).

Humbly we pray
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.
Remember, Lord, your Church,
spread throughout the world,
and bring her to the fullness of charity,
together with N. our Pope, N. our Bishop, all the clergy,
and all who serve your people.

Remember also our brothers and sisters
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,

and all who have died in your mercy:
welcome them into the light of your face.
Have mercy on us all, we pray,
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse
with the blessed Apostles,
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the
ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,
and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus
Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him...Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At Paul's conversion he said, "What shall I do, Lord?"
Let us now turn to the Father with the same trusting heart
and pray in the words Jesus Himself gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, from every darkness
that clouds the mind or hardens the heart.
As You freed Paul from fear and blindness,
set us free from everything that divides us,

so that, with joyful hope,
we may await the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
You said to Paul, "I am sending you."
Speak to our hearts now and make us instruments of Your
peace. Grant peace to Your Church, unity among
Christians, and healing in every place where Your name is
proclaimed. You who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

This is Jesus Christ, who met Paul on the road
and meets us here at this altar.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Lord Jesus, You called Paul by name,
and in this Eucharist You call us too.
Take away our blindness, heal our wounds,
and send us where Your love is needed.

Make our lives a living Gospel,
so that others may come to know You
through the grace they see in us.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord our God,
You have fed us with the bread of life
that strengthened Paul for his mission.
May this sacrament renew our courage,
deepen our conversion,
and unite us more closely to Christ and to one another,
so that the world may believe
in the power of Your transforming grace.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May the God who called Paul out of darkness
shine His light upon you
and guide your steps in the way of peace. **Amen.**
May Christ, who revealed His glory on the road to
Damascus, open your hearts to His word

and strengthen you to witness with courage. **Amen.**
May the Holy Spirit, who made Paul a servant of unity,
keep you steadfast in faith
and generous in love for all. **Amen.**
**And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son ☧ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go forth in the peace of Christ,
who transformed Saul into Paul.
Bring His light to the world.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Every conversion begins with this prayer:
‘Lord, what do You want me to do?’”