

9 August, 2026 – 19th Sunday in Ord. Time

1 Kgs 19, 9. 11-13; Rom 9,1-5; Mt 14,22-33

INTRODUCTION

There is an old fisherman's prayer that says, "Your sea, O God, is so great, my boat so small." In many ways, that prayer speaks for all of us. Life often feels larger than our strength, and there are moments when we discover how little control we truly have over the winds and waves around us.

The Scriptures today bring us into that experience. The disciples struggle against the storm, Elijah listens for God in the silence after the wind and fire, and Paul carries the sorrow of love that cannot force another's heart. Each reading reminds us that faith is not freedom from struggle, but trust in God's presence within it.

Very often fear becomes loud within us. Anxiety, disappointment, and uncertainty can distort our vision so that we fail to recognize the Lord who is already near. Yet Christ continues to speak the same words to every troubled heart: "Courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

As we prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us acknowledge the moments when fear has weakened our trust, when noise has drowned out God's gentle voice, and when we have forgotten to reach out to the hand Christ extends to save us.

PENITENTIAL

Lord Jesus, you come to us across the storms of life and calm our fears: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you stretch out your hand when we begin to sink beneath doubt and discouragement:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you speak in the quietness of grace and lead us safely through every storm: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the merciful Lord forgive the times when fear overcame faith, when we resisted his guiding presence, and when we failed to listen for his quiet voice amid the noise of life. May he strengthen our trust, steady us in every storm, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE GLORIA

Though the seas of life may be rough and our hearts uncertain, God never abandons his people. With confidence in the Lord who comes to save us, let us lift our voices in praise and glorify his holy name.

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God,
in the storms and uncertainties of life
you never cease to watch over your people with love.
Teach us to recognize your presence
in moments of silence and trust,
so that, strengthened by the hand of Christ,
we may walk courageously in faith
and never be overcome by fear.

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

There is an old Breton fisherman's prayer that says, "Your sea, O God, is so great, my boat so small." President John F. Kennedy kept those words on a plaque in the White House. They express something deeply human: the awareness that life is often larger, more unpredictable, and more powerful than we are. A small boat does not choose the sea it sails on. It simply learns how to remain afloat upon it.

Most of us know what it feels like to stand before realities beyond our control. A diagnosis changes everything. A relationship begins to fail. A family burden grows heavier. A decision has to be made without certainty. Suddenly we realize how fragile our confidence can be. The sea becomes rough, and our little boat feels terribly small.

An old story tells of a young sailor crossing the Atlantic for the first time. During a violent storm, he saw the experienced captain calmly drinking tea while waves crashed against the ship. The young sailor shouted,

“Captain, are you not afraid?” The captain answered, “I learned long ago that fear does not stop the storm. It only stops the sailor.” That is important. Fear itself is not the danger. The real danger is allowing fear to make us lose direction, judgement, and trust.

Another naval story makes that point even more sharply. A proud captain was commanding a destroyer on its maiden voyage. One dark night, during a severe storm, he saw a light directly ahead. He ordered a signalman to send the message: “Alter your course ten degrees south.” The reply came back: “Alter your course ten degrees north.” Furious, the captain sent another message: “I am a captain. Alter your course immediately.” The response returned: “I am a seaman second class. Alter your course immediately.” Enraged, the captain thundered: “I command a destroyer!” The final reply came calmly: “And I am a lighthouse.”

What appeared to be an obstacle was actually salvation. What looked like opposition was guidance. In storms,

perception becomes distorted. Sometimes the very thing that can save us is mistaken for a threat.

That is the world of today’s Gospel. The disciples are in a small boat on a rough sea, battered by wind and waves. And Jesus is not with them—at least not in the way they expect. That detail matters because it touches one of the deepest experiences of faith: doing what we believe is right and still finding ourselves in difficulty.

The disciples were not running away from Jesus. They were obeying him. He had sent them ahead. Yet obedience did not spare them from the storm.

Many people quietly struggle with that reality. “I try to live decently. I pray. I work honestly. Why is life still so difficult?” The Gospel does not pretend that faith removes storms. Rather, it reveals that Christ comes to us within them.

There is another small detail that often goes unnoticed. The Gospel says the boat was “a long way from land.” The

disciples are between shorelines—no longer where they started, not yet where they are meant to arrive. Spiritually, many people live there. No longer who they once were, but not yet who they hope to become. In-between places can feel frightening because they lack stability. Yet it is often there that faith grows deepest.

Then comes the astonishing moment. Jesus walks toward them on the water. But instead of comfort, the disciples first experience terror. “It is a ghost!” they cry.

Fear changes perception. We see danger where there is love, rejection where there is invitation, silence where there is presence.

A nurse who worked for years in palliative care once said that many dying patients shared the same regret: “I spent too much of my life being afraid.” Afraid to forgive. Afraid to begin again. Afraid to love openly. Afraid to trust God. Fear narrows life until survival becomes more important than living.

Into that fear Jesus speaks: “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Those words appear again and again throughout Scripture because fear is one of the most persistent realities of human life. The command “Do not be afraid” is not denial. Jesus is not pretending the storm is unreal. The waves are real. The wind is real. But fear does not get the final word.

Peter then does something extraordinary. “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.”

And Jesus simply says, “Come.”

At one level, Peter’s action seems reckless. Yet faith often begins with precisely that movement: stepping beyond what feels secure toward the One who calls us. Every vocation, every act of forgiveness, every difficult reconciliation, every decision to begin again contains something of Peter stepping out of the boat.

A young woman once described leaving a successful career to care for her aging mother who had dementia. Friends told her she was ruining her future. She admitted she was frightened and uncertain. Yet years later she said, “It was the hardest thing I have ever done, but also the place where I discovered God most deeply.” Faith rarely feels safe at the beginning. It feels more like trust than certainty.

At first Peter walks on the water. But then the Gospel says, “He noticed the strong wind.” That sentence captures so much of the spiritual life. Peter shifts his attention from Christ to the storm.

And isn’t that true for many of us? We begin well. We make resolutions. We try to rebuild a marriage, deepen prayer, overcome an addiction, become more patient, more generous. But then the winds become strong: criticism, fatigue, disappointment, old habits, inner doubts. Slowly fear becomes louder than trust. Peter begins to sink.

What follows may be the most honest prayer in the Gospel: “Lord, save me!”

Not elegant. Not polished. Just real.

Sometimes the deepest prayers are the simplest ones. A hospital corridor prayer. A late-night prayer. A whispered prayer in exhaustion. A prayer from someone who no longer has impressive words, only need. And the Gospel says immediately Jesus stretched out his hand.

Immediately. Not after Peter explained himself. Not after he proved his worthiness. Not after the storm stopped. Christ’s response is immediate.

That matters deeply because many people secretly imagine God as distant, disappointed, or slow to help. Yet the Gospel presents a God who moves toward human weakness, not away from it.

The first reading offers another image of God’s presence. Elijah stands upon the mountain waiting for the Lord. There is violent wind, earthquake, and fire. But God is not in

them. Finally comes “a sound of sheer silence,” a gentle whisper, and there Elijah recognizes God.

The world around us is full of noise. Endless opinions, arguments, anxieties, distractions. Noise can make us spiritually deaf. We become unable to recognize the quieter presence of grace.

A man once visited a monastery for a retreat. After two days of silence, he complained to one of the monks, “Nothing is happening here.” The monk smiled and replied, “That is because your soul is finally becoming quiet enough to notice what has always been happening.”

That is profound. God is often not absent; we are simply too distracted to perceive him.

The silence Elijah experiences is not emptiness. It is attentiveness. It is the stillness in which fear loses some of its power and truth becomes recognizable again.

Paul’s words in the second reading add another layer. He speaks with deep sorrow for his people, grieving because those he loves do not recognize what he believes to be life-giving truth. It is the pain of loving without being able to control outcomes.

Parents know this pain. Friends know this pain. Anyone who has watched a loved one make destructive choices knows this helplessness. Faith does not erase that suffering. But it teaches us how to carry sorrow without surrendering to despair.

Taken together, today’s readings reveal a shared truth: human beings are not self-sufficient. Storms outside us, doubts within us, and relationships that wound us all remind us how limited we are. But that realization is not the end of faith. It is the beginning of it.

Because Christianity is not ultimately the story of strong people mastering storms. It is the story of a faithful God who comes toward fragile people in the middle of them.

At the heart of the Gospel is not Peter's failure but Christ's presence. Jesus comes across the water. Jesus speaks courage. Jesus stretches out his hand. Jesus enters the boat. And when he enters the boat, the wind ceases.

There is a final image that gathers all these readings together: a small boat on a vast sea; frightened disciples; a hand reaching through the storm; Elijah listening to silence; a lighthouse mistaken for danger until it is recognized as mercy.

The Breton fisherman's prayer returns once more, but now with deeper meaning: "Your sea, O God, is so great, my boat so small." Yes, the sea is great. But the One who made the sea is greater still. And the hand that reached for Peter continues to reach toward us whenever fear begins to pull us under.

INVITATION TO THE CREDO

United with the Church throughout the world, and trusting in the Lord who steadies us in every storm, let us now profess the faith that sustains and guides us.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in faith amid the struggles and uncertainties of life, may become acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord our God,
receive the gifts we place upon your altar
and, through this holy sacrifice,
strengthen us when fear and doubt overwhelm us.
May these offerings deepen our trust in your Son,
who reaches out to save those who call upon him in faith.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For in every age you guide your people
through the storms and uncertainties of life.
When fear overtakes the human heart

and the waves of suffering rise around us,
you do not abandon those who trust in you.
In your Son, Jesus Christ,
you came near to us upon the waters of our weakness.
He stretched out his hand to those who were sinking,
spoke peace to troubled hearts,
and revealed your saving presence
not only in mighty deeds
but also in the stillness where faith listens.
Through him you teach us
that your power is made known in mercy,
your guidance in quiet faithfulness,
and your salvation in the courage to trust.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

With trust in the Father whose hand sustains us through every storm, and following the command of the Savior who teaches us not to be afraid, we dare to say:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that amid the storms and anxieties of this world
we may be strengthened by your presence and guided
safely by the light of your mercy, as we await the blessed
hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples:

“Courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Look not on our fears and failures,
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 hand stretched out to save us, the presence of Christ who remains with us in every storm. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The disciples discovered that the storm was not stronger than the presence of Christ. Elijah discovered that God was found not in noise, but in silence. We too are invited to trust that even when life feels uncertain, the Lord is nearer than we think. The sea may be great and our boat small, but the One who calls us forward never ceases to hold us in his hand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having shared in these sacred mysteries,
we pray, O Lord,
that you may strengthen our hearts with quiet trust
and teach us to recognize your presence
in moments of fear, silence, and uncertainty.
May the Body and Blood of Christ sustain us

until we reach the calm of your eternal kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord calm every fear within you
and strengthen you in every trial. Amen.
May Christ, who stretched out his hand to Peter,
uphold you whenever you stumble or grow weary. Amen.
May the Holy Spirit lead you into the quietness
where God's presence is recognized and trusted. Amen.
And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, trusting that Christ walks with you
across every storm and leads you safely by the light of his
mercy.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

"The sea may be great and our boat small, but the hand of
Christ is always greater than the storm."

10 August, 2026 – Mon., 19th Week in Ord. Time

St. Lawrence, Deacon

2 Cor 9,6-10; Jn 12,24-26

INTRODUCTION

Once, on a stormy night along a rocky coastline, a lighthouse keeper noticed a fishing boat struggling far out at sea. The waves were rising, the wind was fierce, and the little boat kept losing its direction. Though his oil reserves were low, he chose to keep the lamp burning through the night, guiding the fishermen safely home.

His act was never celebrated publicly, yet those who survived remembered the light that refused to go out. It was a light that did not protect itself but spent itself for others.

Today, on the feast of Saint Lawrence, we are reminded that Christian life shines brightest when it is given away in love. The Gospel speaks of the grain of wheat that falls into the earth and dies so as to bear much fruit. Saint

Lawrence lived this mystery with joyful courage and generous service.

As we begin this Eucharist, let us ask ourselves where our love has become hesitant, where fear has made us hold back, and where we have chosen comfort instead of self-giving. Let us now seek the mercy of the Lord in the penitential act.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you are the grain of wheat who died to bring life to the world: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you call us to joyful generosity and cheerful service: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you teach us that nothing given in love is ever lost: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our reluctance to love generously, strengthen us to become fruitful in self-giving service, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who filled Saint Lawrence with joyful courage to serve the poor and to offer his life in faithful witness, teach us to become like the seed of the Gospel, trusting that whatever is given in love will bear lasting fruit in your Kingdom. Grant that, freed from fear and selfishness, we may shine as generous servants of your people. 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

A young student once shared his lunch with a classmate who had forgotten his meal. It seemed like a small gesture—half a sandwich, a piece of fruit. Yet that simple act quietly spread until no one in the class went hungry. What began as one small generosity reshaped the whole community.

The red thread of today's Word is clear: life grows through

self-giving love—like the grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies.

Saint Lawrence lived this truth. As a deacon in Rome, he did not cling to the Church's goods but saw them as meant for the poor. When asked to present the Church's treasures, he pointed to the poor, the suffering, the forgotten. He understood that the Church is most radiant not when it accumulates, but when it gives itself away.

Saint Paul says the same in the first reading: "God loves a cheerful giver." Not reluctant or pressured generosity, but joyful giving. And he adds the paradox of the Gospel: the more we sow, the more we reap—not because God calculates rewards, but because love multiplies what it gives away.

Jesus brings this to its deepest meaning: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." He speaks first of himself—his death becoming life for the world—and then of us: whoever clings to life loses it; whoever gives it away finds it transformed.

There is a quiet challenge here. We often protect our time, our comfort, our security. Yet life becomes most alive when it is offered.

A nurse once worked in a wartime hospital where supplies were scarce and exhaustion constant. Still, she never turned away from a patient. Years later, one survivor said it was not only medicine that saved him, but her presence—given without reserve—that restored his dignity. That is the harvest Jesus speaks of. That is the fruit of Lawrence's life. That is what cheerful giving looks like in flesh and blood.

A farmer once, after a poor harvest, still chose to sow again. Neighbours called it foolish. Yet when the rains came, the field overflowed with grain. He said later that the hardest part was not sowing, but trusting that nothing given in faith is ever lost.

So it is with the Kingdom: nothing given in love is wasted. Everything becomes seed.

And the question remains: what in us still resists becoming seed? What are we still holding back?

Saint Lawrence shows us the way—trusting surrender, not

self-preservation; fruitful love, not fearful holding back. In him, the grain of wheat becomes visible: life through self-gift, fruit through surrender.

May we learn this freedom—the freedom of the seed, the freedom of the cheerful giver, the freedom of love that trusts the harvest.

On a quiet evening after a long journey, a traveller arrived at a village with nowhere to stay. An elderly couple welcomed him into their small home, sharing their food and space without hesitation. The next morning he left unnoticed. Years later, they discovered he had been the one who secured a well that transformed their entire region. What they had given freely returned in abundance. So it is in the Kingdom of God: what is given in love becomes more than it was, and what is surrendered becomes the beginning of new life.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may become like the offering of Saint Lawrence: freely given, joyfully surrendered, and fruitful in love for God and neighbour.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, the gifts we place upon your altar as we celebrate the victory of Saint Lawrence.

May this holy offering teach us to spend our lives generously in your service and to trust that every act of love becomes seed for your Kingdom.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

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

For in Saint Lawrence you reveal the beauty of a life poured out in love. As your Son became the grain of wheat

that fell to the earth and died to bear much fruit, so your martyr Lawrence gave himself freely in service to the poor and remained faithful even unto death.

Through his witness you teach your Church that nothing offered in love is ever wasted, and that joyful generosity becomes a harvest of grace in the world.

And so, with Angels and Saints, we praise you, as without end we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to pray as children who trust the Father completely, knowing that whatever is given in love is never lost.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, and free our hearts from the fear that makes us cling only to ourselves.

Give us the courage of Saint Lawrence,
that we may sow generously in love,
trusting in the harvest of your Kingdom.
Graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us that life becomes fruitful
when it is offered in love and service.
Look not on our hesitation and selfishness,
but on the faith of your Church,
which seeks to become a generous light in the world,
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, behold him who became the
grain of wheat broken for the life of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The seed disappears into the earth, yet from its surrender
comes life. So too every act of love, every hidden
generosity, every sacrifice offered in faith becomes fruitful
in God's hands.

Saint Lawrence understood this mystery well: what is kept
only for oneself remains small, but what is given away in
love becomes part of God's abundant harvest.
May this Eucharist teach us the freedom of cheerful giving
and the quiet courage to become bread broken for others.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these sacred gifts, we humbly ask you, O
Lord, that, following the example of Saint Lawrence,
we may learn to give ourselves generously in love
and bear lasting fruit through faithful service.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you with the joyful generosity of Saint Lawrence, so that your lives may become a light for those in darkness. Amen.

May he teach you the freedom of the grain of wheat, trusting that nothing given in love is ever lost. Amen.
And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by lives poured out in generous love.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Nothing given in love is ever wasted.
When we stop clinging to ourselves and begin to live as seed for others, God turns even the smallest act of generosity into a harvest of life.

11 August, 2026 – Tuesday, 19th Week in Ord. Time

St. Clare; Ezek 2,8-3,4; Mt 18,1-5. 10. 12-14

INTRODUCTION

A young apprentice once worked under a master craftsman known for his patience. One day, the apprentice was given a simple task: polish a set of tools. Instead of focusing on the work, he kept glancing around, hoping someone would notice how skillfully he was handling it. By the end of the day, the tools were unevenly finished—not because he lacked ability, but because he was more concerned about being seen than about doing the task well.

In another setting, researchers noticed that people who constantly compared themselves with others often became restless and dissatisfied, even when they were successful. Those who quietly devoted themselves to learning and service grew with greater peace and joy.

The same temptation can enter our spiritual lives. We can seek recognition, importance, or praise instead of simply belonging to God with trusting hearts. Yet Jesus teaches

that true greatness is found not in status but in humble dependence upon the Father.

As we gather before the Lord today, let us ask for the grace to become childlike in trust, humble in service, and compassionate toward the weak and lost. Aware of our pride and self-seeking, we now turn to the Lord in the penitential act.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us to become like little children, trusting completely in the Father: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you seek the lost sheep and carry the weak upon your shoulders: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you teach us that true greatness is found in humble service and love: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who looks with tenderness upon the humble and raises up those who trust in him, forgive us our sins, heal our pride and selfishness, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God,
teach us to walk the path of childlike humility and trust,
that, receiving your word with open hearts
and caring for the weak and the wandering,
we may follow your Son in simplicity and love.
Grant that we may seek not our own importance
but the joy of belonging completely to you.

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

A football team once argued fiercely in the dressing room before a big match. The captaincy had just been announced, and several players felt overlooked. The coach listened quietly and then placed a training bib in the middle of the room. “The greatest player today,” he said, “will be the one who wears this and serves the team without asking who gets the credit.” Silence followed—the argument suddenly sounded much smaller.

In today's Gospel, the disciples are having their own version of that same argument: "*Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?*" Jesus responds in a way they did not expect. He places a child in their midst. Not a warrior, not a scholar, not a leader—but a child, someone without rank or rights in that society.

Then comes the unsettling truth: unless they change and become like children, they will not even enter the kingdom. Jesus is not praising childishness, but childlikeness—an open, trusting dependence on God. A child does not calculate status or defend reputation; a child simply receives life as gift.

This is where the first reading quietly deepens the message. Ezekiel is told to take and eat the scroll of God's word. He does not argue or analyse first; he receives, interiorises, and only then speaks. Discipleship is not about climbing higher than others, but about letting God's word become life within us.

St Clare understood this path well. She chose hiddenness over display, poverty over possession, and trust over

control. Her greatness was not in visibility but in availability to God—like a child resting securely in a Father's care.

And Jesus pushes the teaching even further. He speaks of the shepherd who leaves ninety-nine sheep to search for the one that is lost. God's greatness is not measured in dominance but in relentless love that goes after what is fragile and wandering.

A young shepherd once noticed at dusk that one lamb was missing. While others settled for counting the remaining flock, he took his staff and went out into the dark hills. Hours later, he returned carrying the exhausted lamb on his shoulders. He said nothing about effort or reward—only that the sheep was safe.

That is the mind of God. That is the path of the disciple. Greatness in the kingdom is not about being above others, but about belonging completely to God and caring deeply for those whom God does not abandon.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered with humble and trusting hearts, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord our God,
receive the offerings we place before you
and free us from every desire for human praise.
May this sacrifice teach us the humility of Christ,
who came not to be served but to serve,
and make us attentive to the lost, the weak, and the forgotten. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For in your wisdom you reveal true greatness
not through power or worldly honour,
but through humble and trusting hearts.
Your Son placed a child among his disciples

to show that the kingdom belongs
to those who depend upon you with simplicity and love.
In Christ, the Good Shepherd,
you seek the lost and carry the weak with compassion,
teaching us that no one is forgotten in your sight.
Through the witness of the saints,
you continue to show your Church
that holiness flourishes in hidden service, faithful love,
and complete trust in your providence.
And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray with the trust and simplicity of children who
know they are loved by their Father:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from pride, self-seeking, and the need for
recognition. Graciously grant peace in our days,
that, trusting fully in your mercy,
we may become humble servants of one another
and faithful seekers of those who are lost.
As we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now
and for ever.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught your disciples that greatness is found in humble
love and service.
Look not on our sins and divisions,
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 Good Shepherd who seeks
the lost and gathers us into his care.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The child trusts without fear.

The shepherd searches without giving up.

The disciple follows without seeking recognition.

In this Eucharist, Christ has fed us with the simplicity of
divine love.

May we leave this celebration less concerned with being
important and more willing to belong completely to God.
For the heart that is humble before the Lord becomes a
place where others can safely return and find peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these sacred mysteries, O Lord,
may we grow in humble trust and faithful love.

Teach us to receive your word with childlike hearts
and to reflect the compassion of the Good Shepherd
toward all who are weak, lost, or burdened.

May this sacrament strengthen us
to seek not greatness for ourselves
but holiness in loving service.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you with the humility of little children,
the trust to rest securely in the Father's care,
and the compassion to seek those who are lost.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by humble service, trusting
hearts, and compassionate love.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

True greatness is not found in being above others, but in
belonging completely to God and caring for those whom
God never stops seeking.

12 August, 2026 – Wed. 19th Week in Ord. Time

Ezek 9,1-17. 10,18-22; Mt 18, 15-20

INTRODUCTION

In one office, a simple email sent in haste set off an unexpected chain reaction. A few poorly chosen words were read as criticism rather than clarification. Within hours, colleagues stopped speaking to one another, messages became colder, and what had been a minor misunderstanding grew into a tense atmosphere that affected the whole team. It was only when a senior staff member invited the two parties into a quiet room, listened carefully to both sides, and gently helped each one hear what the other truly meant that healing slowly began. What seemed like a small rupture needed truth spoken with patience and humility to restore peace.

Situations like this are not rare in human life. Words can wound, silence can harden hearts, and misunderstandings can quietly grow into division if left unattended. Yet, when truth is spoken in the right spirit, it can also become a path to reconciliation and renewal.

Today's Scriptures remind us that God is not absent from the fragile and sometimes broken spaces of human community. He calls us not only to personal faith but to shared responsibility for one another, especially when relationships are strained or truth needs to be spoken in love.

And so, as we come before the Lord, we recognize those moments when we have failed to build communion, when pride has kept us from listening or courage has kept us from speaking. We prepare our hearts now to seek mercy and healing, and so we turn to the Lord in the penitential act.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you are present wherever hearts gather in humility and prayer: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you call us to speak truth with love and to seek reconciliation with one another: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you heal broken relationships and restore communion among your people: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us the times we have wounded others through pride, silence, or harshness, heal what is broken within us and among us, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who reveal your presence wherever your people gather in the name of your Son,
teach us to walk in humility,
to speak the truth with charity,
and to seek reconciliation with sincere hearts,
so that your Church may become a living sign of your peace and communion.

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

A parish church was being prepared for a weekday service. On that morning, only two volunteers arrived early to set things in order. One quietly arranged the altar cloth while the other lit the candles and swept the sanctuary floor. There was no crowd, no music, no activity—just quiet service in an almost empty church. Yet both later spoke of a deep peace, as if they were not alone at all.

That experience touches today's Gospel. Jesus says: *"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."* Not as a distant presence, but as Emmanuel—God-with-us. The red thread today is: God-with-us in humble communion and fraternal truth.

In Ezekiel, the Lord's glory departs the temple because of sin, showing how unfaithfulness can obscure God's presence. In the Gospel, however, God's presence is no longer tied to a place but to people gathered in Christ's name—even in the smallest numbers.

This presence calls us to responsibility. When there is wrongdoing, Jesus does not ask for silence or judgment,

but for a careful path of truth spoken in love. Correction is meant to heal, not to condemn.

But it must always be humble. We cannot correct another while blind to our own faults. We stand together as sinners, helping one another toward conversion.

Everything is rooted in prayer: *where two or three meet in my name*. Without prayer, truth becomes harsh; without truth, prayer becomes empty. Together, they allow Christ's presence to heal and restore.

Even the smallest gathering matters. Two people forgiving, two praying, two seeking truth in love—these are already places of grace. God is at work where love is real, not where numbers are large.

A few years ago, two lifelong friends in a small town stopped speaking after a misunderstanding. Years passed in silence. One evening, outside a church after a funeral, one finally said, "I may be wrong, but I miss my friend." That simple sentence opened everything. Tears, forgiveness, reconciliation followed. They walked into the church together again—quietly healed.

And so the Gospel remains clear: God is never far from our broken relationships. Where truth is spoken in love and hearts are humble, Christ is present. In that presence, even the smallest reconciliation becomes a sign of God-with-us.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in humility and in the desire for reconciliation and peace, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
accept these offerings of your people
and make them a sign of the unity you desire for your Church.

Where relationships are wounded, bring healing;
where hearts are divided, restore charity;
and where truth must be spoken, grant us humility and grace.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

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

For you never abandon your people,
but remain close to those who seek you with humble hearts. In your Son, Jesus Christ,
you have shown us that your presence is found
where hearts gather in prayer, truth, and reconciliation.

When division wounds human community,
you call us to forgiveness. When pride closes hearts,
you invite us to humility.

And where even two or three gather in your name,
your Son remains among them
as the source of peace, healing, and communion.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Gathered together in the name of Christ, and trusting that God is truly with us in every effort toward reconciliation and peace, we dare to pray:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially the divisions that wound families, communities,
and hearts. Graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may always be free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we learn to walk humbly with one another,
speaking truth with charity and seeking reconciliation in
Christ. As we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are present wherever people gather in your name
to seek forgiveness, truth, and reconciliation.
Look with mercy upon your Church
when division, misunderstanding, and pride weaken our

communion. Teach us to listen with humility,
to correct one another with charity,
and to become instruments of your healing peace.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who remains present among those who gather in his name
and who heals hearts wounded by division and sin.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you have come among us once again.
In this Eucharist, you have reminded us that your presence
is not far away but alive wherever hearts seek truth,
forgiveness, and peace.
Teach us to carry this communion into our homes,
workplaces, and communities.
May our words heal rather than wound, our humility open
paths to reconciliation, and our prayer keep us united in
your love.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the reception of your Sacrament, O Lord,
strengthen within us the grace of reconciliation and peace,
so that, gathered in your name,
we may become instruments of truth spoken with charity
and witnesses to your living presence in the world.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord, who is present wherever hearts gather in his
name, strengthen you in humility, patience, and love.
Amen.

May he heal every division within you and among you,
and make you instruments of reconciliation and peace.
Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by living in truth, humility,
and reconciliation with one another.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Where truth is spoken with humility and love, Christ is
already present, healing hearts and restoring communion.”

13 August, 2026 – Thursday, 19th Week in Ord. Time

Ezek 12,1-12 Mt 18,21-19,1

INTRODUCTION

A coastal town once ignored repeated warnings from its lighthouse keeper. The foghorn sounded through the night, but because the sea looked calm, many assumed there was no danger. That morning, a small fishing boat set out early and never returned. Only later did the townspeople realize that what they dismissed as warning was in fact a call to heed what could not yet be seen.

In the first reading, Ezekiel is asked to perform a symbolic act: to pack his belongings as if for exile and leave by day through a wall he has dug. It is a sign to a people who refuse to believe that judgment and consequence are near. His life itself becomes a message—visible, concrete, unavoidable—because words alone are no longer being heard.

Like Ezekiel's audience, we too can become deaf to the quiet signs God places before us—signs that call us to conversion, to reconciliation, to truth. When we presume

everything is in order between ourselves and God and one another, we risk missing what love is still urging us to see and to change.

And so, as we gather for this Eucharist, we acknowledge those moments when we have ignored the Lord's prompting to forgive, to seek forgiveness, or to begin again. We bring these to Him now, asking for hearts that are open and willing to be led into healing and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You reveal the Father's mercy to hearts hardened by resentment: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You teach us to forgive without counting the cost: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You call us to reconciliation and freedom through Your Cross: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God soften the hardness of our hearts, forgive us for the times we have resisted His call to mercy and reconciliation, heal what sin has wounded within us, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, whose mercy toward us is beyond all measure,
teach us to forgive as we ourselves have been forgiven,
that freed from resentment and fear,
we may walk in the peace and reconciliation of Your
Kingdom.

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

A parish music group once had two long-time members who stopped speaking to each other after a disagreement over something most people had already forgotten. Rehearsals continued, hymns were sung, but there was a noticeable distance between them. One evening, during preparation for a Sunday liturgy, the choir director quietly stepped aside and invited them to help him adjust the seating. In that small moment of shared task and silence, something softened. Words eventually returned—not many, but enough to begin again.

The Gospel today brings us Peter's question: "How often must I forgive?" Jesus' answer—"seventy-seven times"—shatters the idea of limits. He then tells the parable of the servant whose enormous debt is forgiven, only for him to refuse mercy to a fellow servant over a far smaller amount. The contrast is deliberate and confronting. Mercy received but not shared becomes mercy lost.

The red thread running through this Gospel is simple yet demanding: forgiveness received must become forgiveness given. Jesus is not speaking about forgetting harm or pretending injury does not matter. He is revealing that life in God cannot be lived by measuring others while forgetting what we ourselves have been given. As Ezekiel's sign-act warned a resistant people, so this parable warns us: when the heart closes, even grace cannot be received fully.

There is a freedom that comes when we stop calculating what others owe us and begin remembering what we have been given. That is the "seventy-seven times" freedom—freedom from keeping score, freedom to begin again,

freedom that reflects the heart of the Father whose mercy is never exhausted.

A man once attended a family meal after years of silence between him and his brother. No one was sure what would happen. The conversation was hesitant at first, almost formal. Then someone mentioned a childhood memory—something small, almost forgotten—and it broke the tension. By the end of the evening, there were no dramatic declarations, only a quiet decision to meet again. Nothing was fully resolved, yet something essential had shifted: mercy had begun to circulate again where silence had long ruled.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that as we place these gifts upon the altar, we may also place before the Lord every burden of resentment, every wounded relationship, and every need for healing, that our sacrifice may become pleasing to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, accept the gifts we bring before You,
and through this holy offering
free us from the habit of keeping account of wrongs.
May this Eucharist teach us again
the mercy we ourselves have received from You.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For You never tire of calling Your people back to Yourself.
Through the prophets You warned hearts that had grown
stubborn, and in Your Son You revealed the boundless
depth of Your mercy.
When we were burdened by the debt of sin,
You did not abandon us,
but reconciled us through the Cross of Christ.
In Him You teach us that mercy received
must become mercy shared,

and that forgiveness opens the way
to freedom, healing, and peace.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of Your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to pray for the grace to forgive as we ourselves
have been forgiven:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, and free our
hearts from the bitterness that keeps us from
reconciliation. Graciously grant peace in our days, that, by
the help of Your mercy, we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, You taught us that mercy must flow
from heart to heart and that reconciliation is the path to
true peace. 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, who takes away the sins of the
world and restores us through His mercy.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The servant in the Gospel had received more mercy than
he could ever repay, yet he struggled to share even a little
of it with another. In this Eucharist, we have received again
the mercy of Christ—not as an idea, but as a gift placed
into our hands and hearts. The Lord now sends us forth to
let that mercy circulate through our words, our
relationships, and our willingness to begin again.
Forgiveness may not resolve everything immediately, but it

opens the door through which healing can quietly enter.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the Bread of life, O Lord,
we pray that this holy mystery
may soften what is hardened within us
and strengthen us to live in mercy and reconciliation.
May we who have shared in Your forgiveness
become instruments of healing and peace for others.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Final Blessing

May the Lord, rich in mercy and compassion,
teach you to forgive as you have been forgiven. Amen.
May He heal wounded relationships
and fill your hearts with the freedom of reconciliation.
Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by lives marked by mercy,
reconciliation, and the courage to begin again.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Mercy begins to heal the world the moment we stop
keeping score and start remembering how much we
ourselves have been forgiven.

14 August, 2026 – Friday, 19th Week in Ord. Time

St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe

Ezek 10,1-15. 60 .63 or Ezek 16,59-63; Mt 19,3-12

God's faithful love calling us back to original unity

INTRODUCTION

In a small coastal village, an elderly carpenter once restored an old wooden boat that everyone else had abandoned as beyond repair. Though cracked and weathered by storms, it was patiently rebuilt plank by plank until it could once again return to the sea. It no longer looked untouched, but it had become whole again through patient care and fidelity.

Our lives and relationships can resemble that fragile vessel. Love is often tested by misunderstandings, disappointments, and the burden of human weakness. Yet God does not easily discard what is wounded. He continues to call us back to the original unity and communion for which we were created.

Today, Jesus speaks of marriage not merely as a human

contract but as a sacred communion reflecting God's own faithful love. At the same time, he honours every vocation that gives itself wholly to God—whether in marriage, consecrated life, or generous service for others. In Saint Maximilian Kolbe, we see love carried to its fullest measure in the gift of one's own life.

Gathered around this altar, we acknowledge how often our love has been hesitant, divided, or self-protective. Let us ask the Lord to restore within us hearts capable of fidelity, mercy, and enduring communion as we prepare for the penitential act.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us back to the unity and faithfulness intended from the beginning: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you remain patient with us when our love grows weak and wounded: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you reveal perfect self-giving love in the sacrifice of the Cross and in the witness of your saints: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who patiently restores what is wounded and renews hearts in faithful love, forgive us our sins, strengthen us in communion with one another, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

Merciful and faithful God,
you created humanity for communion and called us to reflect your enduring love in lives of fidelity and self-giving. In a world marked by division and fragility, renew our hearts by your grace, that we may persevere in love, heal what is broken, and become living signs of your mercy. 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

A young couple once stood in front of a small country church, years after their wedding day. Life had not been easy—there had been misunderstandings, long silences, and moments when both wondered if love had quietly

faded. Yet on that day, they renewed their vows not with grand emotion, but with a quiet decision to begin again, carrying not illusions but the truth of their shared journey.

This is the horizon into which today's Gospel speaks.

When the Pharisees question Jesus about divorce, they are not really seeking wisdom but testing him within a legal debate already weighted against women and shaped by human limitation. Jesus, however, moves beyond the categories of his time. He returns to Genesis, to the beginning, where man and woman are called not into dominance or legal loopholes, but into communion: “the two become one flesh.” His vision is not primarily about law but about the healing of relationships according to God's original intention.

Yet Jesus is not naïve about human fragility. He knows that relationships can break, that fidelity can be wounded, that the ideal is often strained by reality. Still, he does not lower the vision. Instead, he restores dignity to love itself, reminding us that it is meant to mirror God's own faithful and enduring love—steady, self-giving, and patient even

when we are not.

At the same time, Jesus also speaks of those who embrace celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom. This is not a lesser path, but another way of embodying undivided love. Whether in marriage or in consecrated life, the call is the same: to let love become transparent to God's own generosity.

In Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe, whose memory we honour today, this teaching finds a radiant expression. In Auschwitz, he offered his life in place of a married man, a father. In that dark cell of starvation, love became radically concrete—no longer theory, but gift. It was a love that did not calculate, but gave itself away completely, echoing the self-giving of Christ.

And so the Gospel leaves us with a demanding but life-giving truth: we are called to a love that does not remain divided between ideal and reality, but allows God to draw both into healing unity.

A fisherman once survived a violent storm at sea. When he returned to shore, his boat was battered and nearly

unrecognisable. Many told him to abandon it. But he rebuilt it plank by plank, saying, "It is still the vessel that brought me home before the storm." Years later, he would say that the sea had not only tested his boat, but also taught him what it means to endure together.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in faith and trust, may strengthen us to live with undivided hearts and faithful love, and may become acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these offerings we place upon your altar,
and through this holy sacrifice heal what is wounded within us and deepen our communion with you and with one another.

May the example of Saint Maximilian Kolbe inspire us to love generously and without reserve.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PREFACE

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

For from the beginning, you created humanity in your
image and called us into communion through faithful and
self-giving love.

Even when sin wounded human relationships and divided
hearts, you did not abandon your people
but continued to call them back to unity and covenant
through your mercy.

In your Son, Jesus Christ, you revealed the fullness of love
that endures, forgives, and gives itself completely.

Through his Cross, what was broken is restored,
and through the witness of your saints,
especially Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe,
you show us that true love becomes most radiant in
sacrifice for others.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,

and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to pray to the Father who calls his children into
unity, fidelity, and enduring love:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant
peace in our days, that, strengthened by your mercy, we
may remain faithful in love, patient in trial, and united in
heart and spirit as we await the blessed hope and the
coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you called your disciples to live in faithful communion and
revealed through your life the power of self-giving love.
Look not on our divisions and failures, but on the faith of
your Church, and graciously grant her the peace and unity
of your Kingdom in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who remains faithful even when human love falters,
and who heals what is wounded through the gift of himself.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Love becomes strongest not when it is untouched by hardship, but when it chooses to remain faithful through it. In this Eucharist, Christ has given himself completely to us once again. He enters the fragile places within us—not to condemn, but to restore. Like the rebuilt boat that returned to the sea after the storm, we too are sent back into life renewed by grace, strengthened to love with greater patience, fidelity, and mercy.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son,
we pray, O Lord, that this sacrament may strengthen us in lives of faithful love and generous service.
Heal what is divided within us,
renew our commitment to communion,

and make us courageous witnesses of self-giving charity after the example of Saint Maximilian Kolbe.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you with hearts steadfast in love and patient in trial. Amen.

May he heal what is wounded in your relationships and strengthen you in fidelity and peace. Amen.

And may the example of Saint Maximilian Kolbe inspire you to live with generous and self-giving love. Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by lives of faithful love, healing, and generous self-giving.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Faithful love is not the absence of storms, but the courage to rebuild, remain, and give oneself again in the light of God's enduring mercy.

15 August, 2026 – Saturday

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rev. 11,19; 12,1–6.10; 1 Cor 15,20–26; Lk 1,39–56

Faith that moves in love is already stepping into glory.

INTRODUCTION

A lighthouse keeper once said that during violent storms he never focused on the waves themselves, but on keeping the light steady. He knew frightened sailors did not need noise or panic; they needed a faithful light that could guide them home. Often he never met the people he helped. Yet he trusted that the light mattered.

Today the Church celebrates Mary as that steady light of faith. In her Assumption we see not only Mary's glory, but humanity's destiny in Christ. Her life—hidden, humble, faithful, and loving—has already reached the fulfilment God desires for all his people. The Lord who raised Christ from the dead has also raised Mary into heavenly glory. The Gospel shows Mary setting out “in haste” to visit Elizabeth. Faith in her did not remain private or passive. She carried Christ into another person's life, and where

Christ arrived, joy awakened. The child leapt in Elizabeth's womb, and praise filled the house. Faith that moves in love is already beginning to share in heaven's life.

Yet we know that our own faith is not always steady. We sometimes choose fear over trust, self-interest over service, and discouragement over hope. Therefore, as we prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us ask the Lord for mercy and healing.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you came into the world through the humble faith of Mary and brought joy to all who welcomed you:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you call us to carry your presence into the lives of others through love and service:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you have conquered sin and death and opened for humanity the path to eternal glory:

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who lifted up the lowly Virgin Mary and filled her with the joy of salvation, forgive us our sins, strengthen us in faith and loving service, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

INVITATION TO GLORIA

As we honour Mary, assumed into heavenly glory, let us join the song of praise she herself proclaimed in the Magnificat, rejoicing in the God who lifts up the humble and fills his people with life.

COLLECT

O God, who looked with love upon the humility of the Blessed Virgin Mary and raised her body and soul into heavenly glory, grant that, following her example of faithful service and steadfast trust, we too may carry Christ into the world with joyful hearts and come at last to share in the fullness of eternal life.

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

An elderly woman once lived alone in a quiet coastal village. Her days passed simply: the sound of waves, the ticking of an old clock, and occasional visits from neighbours. One afternoon a man came to encourage her, thinking loneliness must surely weigh heavily upon her. But afterward he admitted something unexpected: “I went to cheer her up, but I came away lighter myself.”

She possessed very little—just tea, old stories, and a peaceful presence. Yet that presence changed the atmosphere around her.

That is very close to what happens in today’s Gospel.

Mary goes “in haste” to visit Elizabeth. At first glance, it seems like an ordinary family visit. But underneath that simple journey is one of the greatest mysteries in Scripture: God is being carried quietly into another person’s home.

And notice what happens. The moment Mary arrives, joy erupts. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit. The child within her leaps. Words of blessing overflow. Mary has

brought no riches, no power, no public announcement. She has only brought Christ. Yet Christ's hidden presence changes everything.

There are moments in life when presence matters more than words. Nurses sometimes speak about patients who seem unconscious or unresponsive, yet react when a loved one enters the room. A hand is squeezed. A face softens. A heartbeat steadies. One nurse said, "It is as though the soul recognizes it is no longer alone."

Mary's visitation carries exactly that mystery. The unborn Christ is hidden within her, but his presence is already bringing life.

And that is what true faith always does. Faith is never merely private belief. Faith moves. Faith travels. Faith carries Christ toward others.

The Assumption of Mary celebrates the fulfilment of that life of faith. The Church does not honour Mary simply because she was chosen once long ago. The Church honours her because she remained faithful all the way through: at Nazareth, at Bethlehem, during exile, in

ordinary hidden years, at Cana, and finally at the foot of the cross.

Her glory did not begin in heaven. It began in daily trust. A teacher once told students that greatness is often invisible while it is happening. He held up an acorn and asked, "Who sees the oak tree?" At first the students laughed because all they saw was a small seed. Yet hidden within it was something immense.

Mary's life looked small in the eyes of the world. A village girl. A quiet mother. No armies. No political power. No public importance. Yet within her life was the Kingdom of God unfolding.

And today the Assumption reveals what God saw all along. The Book of Revelation gives us that dramatic image of the woman clothed with the sun, opposed by the dragon. It reminds us that goodness is always contested. Faith is never lived without struggle.

Sometimes we imagine holy people as untouched by conflict or fear. But Mary knew uncertainty. She knew misunderstanding. She knew suffering. Simeon warned her

that a sword would pierce her heart. She watched her Son rejected and crucified.

Yet evil did not have the final word.

There is a story from wartime Europe about a family forced to live through nightly blackouts. Every visible light had to disappear because enemy aircraft searched for targets below. Yet one mother secretly kept a small candle burning behind thick curtains because her newborn child feared the darkness. A neighbour later said, “You could not see the light from outside, but somehow you knew it was there because the whole house felt different.”

That hidden light is a beautiful image of Mary. She carries Christ quietly, yet wherever she goes the atmosphere changes.

The Church is called to be the same. Not loud domination. Not spectacle. But hidden faithfulness that brings Christ into homes, hospitals, schools, workplaces, and wounded hearts.

Sometimes Christians think they are accomplishing little because their acts seem ordinary: visiting someone lonely,

praying faithfully, caring for children, forgiving quietly, remaining honest in difficulty, sitting beside the sick, encouraging someone who is discouraged.

But the Gospel reminds us that hidden acts of love can carry eternal significance.

A doctor once described the chaos of an emergency ward after a terrible accident. Machines sounded alarms. Staff rushed frantically between patients. Fear filled the room. Yet amid the confusion, one senior nurse moved calmly from bed to bed, speaking gently, bringing reassurance. Later the doctor reflected, “She did not remove the chaos, but she carried a peace that chaos could not destroy.”

That is the peace we see in Mary.

The Assumption tells us that the destiny of humanity is not destruction, but glory. Death is real, but it is not ultimate. Paul says Christ is the “first fruits” of those who have died. Mary’s Assumption becomes the first flowering of what God intends for all who belong to Christ.

And this matters deeply in a world often marked by fear and exhaustion. Many people today carry hidden burdens:

grief, anxiety, uncertainty about the future, loneliness, disappointment, fear of aging, fear of death itself.

The Assumption speaks directly into those fears. It proclaims that a human life lived in God is never lost.

A mountain guide once led travellers through a blinding snowstorm. Visibility disappeared completely. The group became frightened because they could no longer see the destination. The guide simply walked ahead, leaving footprints in the snow. Later he told them, “You did not need to see the whole journey. You only needed to place your feet where I had walked.”

Mary is like that for the Church. She walks ahead as a sign of hope. And Christ himself is the true guide ahead of her, the one who passed through death into eternal life.

The feast of the Assumption therefore is not only about Mary. It is about our future. It is about the meaning of discipleship now. Faith that moves in love is already stepping into glory.

Every act of trust, every quiet sacrifice, every faithful “yes” to God, every hidden work of mercy already belongs to

eternity.

Like Mary, we are called to carry Christ into the world. And wherever Christ is carried with love, life begins to leap again.

INVITATION TO CREDO

United with Mary, who believed the promises of God and now shares fully in Christ’s victory over death, let us profess the faith of the Church.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As Mary carried Christ within her and brought joy to the house of Elizabeth, let us bring these gifts to the altar with hearts ready to serve God and one another in faith and love.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this offering of our service, accepted by you, O Lord, advance the salvation of your people;
and through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, assumed into heaven,

may our hearts remain steadfast in faith
and generous in loving service. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PREFACE

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

For today the Virgin Mother of God
was assumed into heavenly glory,
the first fruit of the Church's fulfilment
and a sign of hope for your pilgrim people.

In her you reveal the destiny prepared
for all who trust in your promise
and carry Christ faithfully through the ordinary paths of life.
Her quiet obedience became joy for the world,
her steadfast love became a light in darkness,

and her faithful service became a song of praise that still
echoes through the Church.

Through her Assumption
you proclaim that death does not have the final word,
for your Son has conquered the grave
and opened the way to eternal life.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

With confidence in the Father whose promise raised Christ
and glorified Mary, let us pray together as the Lord Jesus
taught us.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, sustained by the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
we may walk in faithful hope through the struggles of this
life and carry the light of Christ into a wounded world,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you brought joy to the house of Elizabeth
through the quiet presence of your saving love,
and through your victory over death
you opened for humanity the path to everlasting peace.
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,
who comes to dwell among his people and bring them life.
Happy are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Mary carried Christ within her and brought joy wherever
she went. We too have now received the Lord within us.
The Eucharist is never meant to remain hidden only within
ourselves. Like Mary, we are sent forth to carry Christ into
homes, workplaces, suffering hearts, and ordinary
moments. Faith that moves in love is already beginning to
share in heaven's life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the Sacrament of salvation,
we ask you, O Lord, that through the intercession of the
Blessed Virgin Mary, assumed into heaven, you may
strengthen us to walk faithfully in love and service
until we come to share fully in the glory promised to your
people. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May almighty God,
who raised the Blessed Virgin Mary into heavenly glory,
strengthen your hearts in faith,
fill you with the joy of the Gospel, and make you steadfast
bearers of Christ's presence in the world. Amen.

May the Lord guide your steps through every struggle
and keep alive within you the hope of eternal life. Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, glorifying the Lord by lives of faithful
love, carrying Christ into the world as Mary did.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Faith does not become glorious only at the end of life; it
becomes glorious each time it carries Christ into another
person's life with love.