

20 Sept., 2026 – 25th Sunday in Ord. Time (A Cycle)

Is 55:6–9; Phil 1:20c–24, 27a; Mt 20:1–16a

INTRODUCTION

A teacher once gave each student a balloon and asked them to write their name on it. All the balloons were placed in another room. The students were then told to find their own balloon as quickly as possible. Within minutes, the room was full of chaos, pushing, frustration, and confusion. Then the teacher changed the instruction: “Pick up any balloon and give it to the person whose name is on it.” Within a few moments, every student had received his or her balloon. The teacher smiled and said, “When we only seek our own gain, we create confusion. When we seek the good of others, everyone receives what they need.”

Dear brothers and sisters, today’s Gospel challenges our constant habit of comparing, calculating, and measuring. The workers in the vineyard begin to lose their joy when they start counting what others receive. But God does not

love according to our calculations. His ways are greater than our ways, and His heart is more generous than ours.

Saint Paul discovered this truth deeply. From prison, facing possible death, he could still say: “For me, to live is Christ.” Once Christ became the centre of his life, fear gave way to freedom, and comparison gave way to gratitude.

As we come before the Lord today, we recognize how often envy, resentment, selfishness, and endless comparison disturb our hearts and rob us of peace. Let us ask the Lord for mercy and for the grace to rejoice in His goodness toward everyone.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You call us away from jealousy and teach us the joy of generous love. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You welcome even the latecomers with compassion and mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You alone are the treasure that neither death nor time can take away. **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the God whose thoughts are not our thoughts free us from hearts that compare and calculate, heal us of envy and selfishness, teach us the joy of gratitude and generosity, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE GLORIA

Because God continues to love us beyond all measure, welcomes us even in our weakness, and fills our lives with undeserved grace, let us lift our hearts in praise and sing together:

COLLECT

O God, whose mercy surpasses all human calculation and whose generosity never fails,
teach us to place Christ at the centre of our lives,
that freed from envy, fear, and selfish ambition,
we may rejoice in the blessings of others
and reflect the compassion of your heart in our world.
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: “*God’s Ways Are Greater Than Our Calculations*”

A man once told the story of visiting his dying grandfather. The old man had been a successful businessman all his life. He had built houses, bought land, and worked tirelessly to provide for his family. As the family gathered around his bed, one of the grandchildren innocently asked him, “Grandpa, what are you taking with you?” The old man smiled faintly, lifted his trembling hand, and said, “Only what I have given away... and the One to whom I gave my life.”

That simple statement touches the heart of today’s readings. So much of our life is spent calculating: how much we have achieved, how much we own, how much we deserve, how much others deserve. Yet today the Word of God gently but firmly shakes us out of that way of thinking. Through Saint Paul and through the strange parable of the vineyard workers, we are invited to see life not through the logic of calculation, but through the logic of grace.

In the second reading, Saint Paul writes from prison. He is awaiting trial and knows that death may soon come. Yet, astonishingly, he writes: “For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” These are not the words of someone tired of life. The whole Letter to the Philippians overflows with joy. Paul is not escaping life; he is deeply in love with Christ.

Most people see death as loss. At death we leave behind possessions, achievements, titles, even the people we love most dearly. As we sometimes say, “The last shirt has no pockets.” Yet Paul says, “To die is gain.” Why? Because he had already discovered the secret of life: “To live is Christ.” Christ had become the center of his life.

There is a story told about a missionary priest who worked in Africa for many years. Toward the end of his life, someone asked him, “Father, are you afraid to die?” He replied, “Why should I be afraid? All my life I have been walking toward Someone.” That was Paul’s attitude too. Death was not the collapse of everything; it was the final meeting with Christ whom he loved.

This is why Paul could face death with such freedom. Even if others could take away his earthly life, they could not take away the life he had in Christ. He had discovered that there is only one treasure we do not lose in death: Jesus Christ.

Then today’s Gospel takes us in another direction that also unsettles us. Jesus tells the story of workers in a vineyard. Some work all day under the hot sun. Others work only one hour. Yet at the end of the day, all receive the same wage.

Immediately something rises within us: “That’s unfair!” We instinctively side with the workers who labored all day. Our whole society is built on the principle that the more you work, the more you earn.

But Jesus is not giving an economics lesson. He is revealing the heart of God.

To understand the story, we must remember the world of Jesus. The laborers standing in the marketplace were not

lazy people. They were desperate men hoping someone would hire them so their families could eat that night. A denarius was not merely a wage; it was survival for one day.

So when the landowner gives a full day's wage even to those who worked only one hour, he is not being unjust to the first workers. He had already paid them the agreed wage. Rather, he is being extravagantly generous to the others.

The landowner acts not from calculation but from compassion.

There is a beautiful modern example of this. During the economic crisis in one European country, a bakery owner noticed that several unemployed men came every evening just before closing time, hoping someone might buy them a loaf of bread. Instead of throwing away the remaining bread, the baker began quietly placing bags of bread near the back door each evening. One day a friend asked him,

“Why are you giving away so much for free?” The baker answered, “Because hunger does not wait for fairness.”

That is very close to the heart of today's Gospel.

God's generosity often disturbs us because it does not fit into our calculations. As Isaiah says in the first reading, “My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways.” God does not operate by the mathematics of merit. God works from the abundance of His heart.

This is why Jesus' parables so often shock us. The father welcomes back the prodigal son with a feast. The shepherd leaves ninety-nine sheep to search for one. The vineyard owner gives a full wage to the latecomers.

Again and again, Jesus shows us a God who refuses to love according to strict arithmetic.

Perhaps that is because every one of us, sooner or later, becomes an eleventh-hour worker.

Many people spend years far from God and only later return. Some discover faith after decades of indifference. Some carry wounds, addictions, failures, and regrets. Some feel they have wasted years.

There is a moving story about a prisoner who was converted late in life. After years of violence and crime, he encountered Christ in prison through the quiet witness of a chaplain. Shortly before his execution, he said, “I came to God at the very last hour, but He received me as though He had been waiting for me all my life.”

That is the scandal and the beauty of grace.

If we identify ourselves only with the workers who labored all day, we may end up resentful and bitter, comparing ourselves constantly with others. But if we recognize ourselves among the latecomers, the weak, the undeserving, then this Gospel becomes extraordinarily comforting.

The older German homily puts it beautifully: the workers began the day united in the same anxiety — “Will someone hire us? Will our families eat today?” But when the wages were distributed, they began to compare and calculate, and their unity dissolved into jealousy.

How true that remains today.

Comparison destroys joy. Gratitude restores it.

We see this everywhere — in families, workplaces, even in the Church. One person receives recognition; another feels overlooked. One person seems blessed; another struggles. Soon we begin to calculate: “Why does that person have more than me?”

Yet the Gospel asks a different question: “Why are you not rejoicing that your brother also received goodness?”

There is an old story about two monks walking through a forest. One monk constantly complained: “Why does God give others more talents? Why do others receive more

appreciation?” The older monk stopped beside a stream and asked him, “What do you see?”

“My reflection,” the younger monk replied.

Then the older monk threw a stone into the water. The reflection disappeared in the ripples.

“Envy,” the older monk said, “is like that stone. It disturbs the heart so much that you can no longer see clearly — not God, not others, not even yourself.”

The Gospel today invites us to move from envy to gratitude, from comparison to generosity.

The parable also reminds us that the kingdom of God is not built by calculating people but by generous hearts. The early Christians transformed the ancient world not because they were powerful or wealthy, but because they shared what they had. They cared for widows, fed the poor, welcomed strangers, and forgave enemies. People looked at them and said, “See how they love one another.”

That same spirit is needed today.

And finally, the Gospel brings us back to Saint Paul.

Paul could face death peacefully because his life no longer revolved around possessions, achievements, or status. Christ was his treasure. And once Christ becomes the centre, everything else finds its proper place.

Family becomes a gift, not an idol. Work becomes service, not slavery. Success becomes an opportunity, not an obsession. Money becomes a tool, not a master.

And even death loses its sting.

A nurse once recounted the final moments of two patients. One was a wealthy man who spent his last hours anxiously asking about bank accounts, property documents, and unfinished business. The other was a simple woman who spent her final moments whispering prayers and thanking her family. Just before she died, she smiled and said, “I am going home.”

Both were leaving this world. But only one was free.

Today's readings ask each of us a very personal question:

What is truly the centre of my life? What am I living for?
What am I clinging to? And am I able to rejoice in the
generosity of God toward others?

If we can say with Saint Paul, "For me, to live is Christ,"
then we will gradually discover the freedom of the Gospel.
Then we will no longer live by fear, resentment, or endless
comparison. We will learn to trust the surprising generosity
of God.

And one day, when our own final hour comes, we too may
be able to say with peace: "I am going home — not empty-
handed, but held in the mercy of Christ." Amen.

INVITATION TO THE CREDO

United not by comparison but by faith, and trusting in the
God whose ways are greater than ours, let us now profess
together the faith of the Church:

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As bread and wine are brought to this altar, let us also
place before the Lord our anxieties, our comparisons, our
wounded pride, and our desire to live more generously,
trusting that God can transform them through His grace,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty
Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord,
the gifts we offer in humble gratitude,
and teach us through this sacrifice
to seek not our own advantage
but the good of our brothers and sisters.
May this holy offering deepen within us
the freedom of those whose true treasure is Christ.
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 do not deal with us according to strict justice alone,
but with the abundance of your mercy.
Again and again,
you surprise your people with compassion,
welcome sinners with tenderness,
and give hope to those who come late to your vineyard.

In your Son, Jesus Christ,
you revealed a love greater than all human calculation.
He taught us that true life is found not in possessions or
achievements, but in belonging completely to you.
Through Him, envy is overcome by gratitude,
fear by trust, and death itself by the promise of 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

Because God is a loving Father who gives us each day the
bread we truly need and teaches us to care for one
another with generous hearts, we dare to pray:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from the bitterness that comes from envy,
the fear that comes from clinging too tightly to earthly
things, and the restlessness that comes from endless
comparison. 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,
who taught us to rejoice in the blessings of others
and revealed the generous heart of the Father,
look not on our selfishness 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,
who welcomes the weak, the undeserving, and the
latecomers into the joy of His kingdom.
Happy are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, today You remind us that life is not about
counting merits but about receiving grace.
You call us away from comparison and resentment
into the freedom of grateful hearts.

Teach us to treasure what truly lasts.
May Your presence become the centre of our lives,
so that one day, like Saint Paul,
we may face the future without fear
and entrust ourselves completely into Your hands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having been nourished by the Bread of heaven,
we pray, O Lord, that this sacrament may free us
from hearts narrowed by selfishness and comparison
and strengthen us to live with generosity, trust, and
compassion.

May Christ remain the treasure of our lives
until the day we come home to you in peace.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord free your hearts from envy and fear.
May He teach you the joy of gratitude and generous love.
May Christ remain the centre and treasure of your lives.
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 not through calculation, but through generosity and grateful love.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Comparison destroys joy. Gratitude restores it.
When Christ becomes our treasure, we are finally free.”

21 Sept., 2026 – Mon.,

(St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist – Feast)

Eph 4:1–7, 11–13; Mt 9:9–13

“Called by mercy, formed for mission.”

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a man who once received a letter long after he had given up hope of ever hearing from his estranged father. For years there had been silence, distance, and regret. The letter was simple: “I have never stopped thinking of you. Come home.” At first, he hesitated—wondering if it was really meant for him, if he was worthy, if too much time had passed. But something in those words stirred him. It was not a demand, but an invitation; not a judgment, but a reaching out.

We know what that feels like in different ways—the unexpected message, the undeserved second chance, the moment when someone takes the first step toward us when we thought the relationship was over. Those moments have a quiet power. They can change the

direction of a life.

Today, on the feast of Saint Matthew, we hear of such a moment in the Gospel: a call that comes not after merit, but in the midst of failure; not as a reward, but as a gift. Jesus does not wait for Matthew to become worthy—he calls him as he is.

And as we gather for this Eucharist, we recognize that the same Lord calls us, meets us, and invites us—often in the very places we would rather hide. Aware of the times we have not responded to his call, let us now turn to him and ask for mercy and forgiveness.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you come in search of sinners and call them by name: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you sit at table with the weak and offer healing through your mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you call us by mercy and form us for mission in your Church: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God, who calls us not because we are worthy but because he is merciful, forgive us our sins, strengthen us to follow Christ more faithfully, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God,
who in your boundless mercy chose Saint Matthew,
the tax collector,
to become an Apostle and Evangelist,
grant that we, who have been called by your grace,
may rise from all that keeps us from you
and become faithful witnesses to the Gospel in the world.

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 a story told of a shopkeeper who one day noticed a young man lingering outside his store, too hesitant to come in. The shopkeeper stepped out, greeted him warmly, and said, “You’ve been looking for something, haven’t you?” The young man nodded. “I didn’t think I belonged here,” he admitted. Smiling, the shopkeeper replied, “Most people who come in here feel that way at first.” That simple act of stepping out and inviting him in changed everything. The young man crossed the threshold—not because he was confident, but because he was welcomed.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus does something similar. He does not wait for Matthew to come searching. He passes by, sees him sitting at the tax booth, and says just two words: *“Follow me.”* It is a moment of pure initiative. Matthew, a tax collector, was not someone people admired. He was seen as compromised, even corrupt. Yet Jesus looks at him, not with condemnation, but with a call.

That is the heart of today’s feast: Jesus takes the first step. Unlike the doctor we go to when we are sick, Jesus comes in search of us. He seeks us out in our brokenness, not after we have fixed ourselves. Matthew did not clean up his life first; he simply got up and followed. Grace always begins with God’s initiative.

Caravaggio’s famous painting captures this moment beautifully. Matthew sits at the table, his hand still on his coins, pointing to himself as if to say, *“Me?”* It is the question many of us carry within: *“Could God really be calling me?”* The Gospel answers with a resounding yes. Not because of who we are, but because of who God is—rich in mercy.

What follows the call is just as striking. Matthew hosts a meal, and Jesus sits at table with tax collectors and sinners. It becomes a celebration—not of perfection, but of mercy. The religious leaders are scandalized, but Jesus explains: *“I have come to call not the righteous, but sinners.”* In other words, the table is precisely for those who know they need healing.

This is where the Gospel meets us today. The Eucharist we celebrate is not a reward for the perfect; it is nourishment for the weak. Like that meal in Matthew's house, it gathers together those who are aware—at least in some measure—of their need for mercy. Here, the Lord meets us not as we pretend to be, but as we truly are. Saint Matthew's story also reminds us that being called by mercy leads to being sent in mission. The one who was once an outsider becomes an apostle, a foundation stone of the Church, and an evangelist who proclaims the Gospel. God does not just forgive; he transforms and entrusts. The Church itself is built not on the flawless, but on the forgiven.

And so the question for us is not whether we are worthy, but whether we are willing. Will we, like Matthew, rise from whatever holds us—our habits, our fears, our self-doubt—and follow? Will we allow the mercy we receive here to shape how we see others, especially those who may feel like outsiders?

There is another story of a woman who, after years of feeling excluded from her community, finally gathered the courage to attend a parish gathering. She expected coldness or indifference. Instead, someone noticed her, welcomed her, and made space for her at the table. Later she said, "That was the moment I began to believe that God might still have a place for me." In a quiet way, that welcome became a continuation of the Gospel.

Today, as we celebrate Saint Matthew, we are reminded that we are all, in one way or another, sitting at that tax booth, waiting without knowing it. And Christ passes by, looks at us with mercy, and calls us. Called by mercy, we are formed for mission—to rise, to follow, and to make room at the table for others.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered by those called by mercy and formed for mission, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we celebrate anew the memory of Saint Matthew,
we bring you, O Lord,
our gifts and our lives,
asking that your mercy may transform us,
just as your Son transformed the Apostle
from a collector of taxes into a herald of the Gospel.
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 in your mercy you called Saint Matthew from the tax
booth to the table of discipleship,
showing that your grace seeks out the sinner
and transforms the human heart.

In him you revealed that no one is beyond your
compassion and that those who receive your mercy

are entrusted with the mission of proclaiming the Gospel.
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...**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray with confidence to the Father who continually
calls his children home:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously free us from the fears, doubts, and sins that
keep us from following you.
By the help of your mercy, teach us, like Saint Matthew, to
rise when you call, to trust in your compassion,
and to become instruments of your welcome and peace for
others, as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you called Saint Matthew with mercy
and gathered sinners around your table in 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 calls sinners to follow him
and nourishes the weak with the Bread of Life.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, you passed by Matthew and called him by
name. You pass by us as well—
in our weakness, our hesitation, and our longing.
In this Eucharist, you have again welcomed us to your
table, not because we are perfect,

but because your mercy is greater than our sin.
Teach us now to rise and follow you,
and to become for others a sign of the same welcome and
compassion we ourselves have received.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sharing in the joy of salvation
on the feast of Saint Matthew,
we pray, O Lord, that this holy meal may strengthen us
to follow Christ more faithfully and to proclaim by our lives
the mercy we have received.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord Jesus Christ,
who called Saint Matthew with merciful love,
look upon you with kindness
and strengthen you to follow him faithfully.
Amen.

May he teach you to recognize his grace in your weakness and make you witnesses of his compassion to others.

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 your life,
and make room at the table of mercy for all whom you
meet.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Jesus does not call us because we are worthy; he calls us because he is merciful. Called by mercy, we are sent to become instruments of that same mercy for others.”

22 SEPT., 2026 – TUESDAY, 25TH WEEK IN ORD. TIME

PROV 21:1–6, 10–13; LK 8:19–21

INTRODUCTION

There is a quiet human longing to know where we truly belong. Many people spend years searching for acceptance, recognition, or a place they can call home. Yet the deepest belonging is not created merely by blood, familiarity, or shared history. It is born when hearts are united by something greater than themselves.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus reveals that His true family is formed by those who hear the word of God and put it into practice. He opens the door to a communion deeper than natural ties—a family gathered around obedience, faith, and trust in the Father’s will.

The readings today invite us to examine the soil of our hearts. Are we receptive to God’s word? Do we merely listen to it, or do we allow it to shape our decisions,

relationships, and daily lives? God's word bears fruit only in hearts willing to receive it with perseverance.

And so, as we stand before the Lord, we acknowledge the times we have resisted His word, hardened our hearts, or chosen our own plans over His. Let us ask for mercy and prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You call us to belong to Your family by hearing the word of God and living it faithfully:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You patiently sow the seed of Your word even in hearts that are slow to receive You:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You gather into one family all who persevere in doing the will of the Father:

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, soften the hardness of our hearts, help us to receive His life-giving word with faith and perseverance, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God,

who gather Your people into one family
through the hearing and living of Your holy word,
grant that we may receive with open hearts
the seed You sow within us,
and by faithful obedience
bear lasting fruit in our lives.

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 woman once stood outside a hall where a celebration was taking place. Through the open doorway she could see laughter, shared meals, and warm embraces. Yet she hesitated to enter. She wondered whether she truly belonged there, or whether she was still an outsider looking in on other people's joy. For a moment, she remained on the threshold, unsure if she had the right to cross over.

In today's Gospel, we find a similar scene. The mother and relatives of Jesus arrive, seeking Him. Yet instead of stepping out to meet them, Jesus turns toward those gathered around Him and redefines belonging itself. "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it." It is not a rejection of His family, but a revelation of a deeper communion being formed.

This is where the "red thread" of the Gospel becomes visible: *true family is formed by hearing and doing the word of God*. Jesus is not diminishing natural bonds; He is transforming them into something wider, more enduring,

and more rooted in the will of the Father.

The image is sharpened by the earlier parable of the seed. The word of God is sown generously, but it only bears fruit where it is received with an honest and persevering heart. In that sense, belonging to Jesus' family is not a matter of sentiment but of receptivity—of letting the word take root and shape life from within.

There is also something challenging here. Even those closest to Jesus by blood are invited into a deeper relationship that cannot be assumed. Familiarity is not enough; discipleship is the real entry point. The question quietly turns toward each of us: do we hear the word, or merely hear about it?

A second story is told of a man who returned to his childhood home after many years away. Standing outside, he noticed how small everything seemed now—the door, the windows, even the yard where he once played. But what stopped him most was hearing voices inside: people discussing plans, sharing meals, living life without him. He realized that physically being from that house was not the

same as belonging to what was now happening within it. Jesus is drawing a similar distinction. His new family is not defined by memory or origin, but by participation in the life God is now unfolding. Those who listen and respond become part of what God is doing in the present moment. The Book of Proverbs today adds another layer: human plans may be carefully arranged, but it is the Lord's purpose that endures. That is why hearing the word is never passive. It requires surrender, adjustment, and sometimes the letting go of our own carefully built certainties.

A farmer once placed seed into two fields. One field was carefully prepared, the soil soft and ready; the other was left hard after a long dry season. Weeks later, only one field showed life—green shoots rising steadily despite wind and heat. The other remained unchanged. The difference was not in the seed, but in the soil's readiness to receive.

So it is with the word of God. It seeks not admiration but acceptance; not proximity but transformation. And those who allow it to grow within them become, quietly and

steadily, the family of Christ.

And so the Gospel leaves us not at a distance from Jesus, but at the threshold of belonging. The same word that once gathered disciples around Him now gathers us. If we hear it and keep it, then we are no longer merely observers of His life, but participants in it.

A final story is told of a garden long left unattended. One day, an old gardener returned and began to work the soil again. Neighbours thought it pointless—nothing had grown there for years. Yet he persisted, sowing seeds with patience. Months later, small shoots appeared, then blossoms, then fruit. Those who had dismissed the effort began to wonder when the change had happened. The gardener simply said, "It began the day the soil allowed itself to receive."

So too with us: the family of Jesus is quietly formed wherever the word is received, kept, and allowed to bear fruit.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that as we offer these gifts to the Lord, our hearts may be made ready to receive His word more deeply, and that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, the offerings of Your people,
and grant that, nourished by Your word
and strengthened by these sacred gifts,
we may become faithful members
of the family of Christ,
bearing fruit through lives of obedience and love.
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 in Him You have called us
into a new communion of grace,
not founded merely on earthly ties,
but on hearts that hear and obey Your word.
Through His teaching and example,
You gather people from every nation
into the household of faith,
forming one family united in love and perseverance.

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...**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by the divine
teaching that gathers us into the family of God, we dare to
say:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and soften those places within us
that resist Your holy word.
Graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of Your mercy,
we may always remain faithful in hearing and doing Your
will, as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
You gather into one family
all who listen to Your voice and follow Your way:
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 calls us not only to follow Him
but to belong to His family through faith and obedience.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Lord has spoken His word to us and nourished us with
His Body. The seed has been sown once again. The
question now is not whether God speaks, but whether our
hearts remain open enough to receive Him.

To belong to Christ is not simply to stand near Him, but to
let His word take root within us and shape the way we live.
Quietly, steadily, He forms us into His family whenever we
listen, trust, and persevere.

May the Eucharist we have shared strengthen us to
become fruitful soil, bearing witness through lives
transformed by the word we have received.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, that through the power of this sacrament we may grow ever more deeply in the life of Your Son, hearing His word with attentive hearts and faithfully carrying it into action.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you steadfast in His word. **Amen.**

May He make your hearts fruitful soil, ready to receive His grace and bear lasting fruit. **Amen.**

May He gather you ever more deeply into the family of Christ through lives of faith and obedience. **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, glorifying the Lord by hearing His word and putting it into practice.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Belonging to Christ is not determined by closeness in appearance or familiarity in name, but by hearts that receive His word and allow it to bear fruit in daily life.

23 Sept., 2026 – Wed., 25th Week in Ord. Time

St. Pius of Pietrelcina; Prov 30:5–9; Lk 9:1–6

INTRODUCTION

A lighthouse keeper once told of nights when storms rose so violently that the sea and sky seemed to merge into one dark roar. From his small tower, he had only one task: to keep the light burning. He never went out to calm the waters, never controlled the ships, never changed the weather. Yet many sailors later testified that it was that steady light that kept them alive.

There is something quietly powerful in such hidden faithfulness. It mirrors the life of St. Pius of Pietrelcina, who lived much of his ministry in obscurity and suffering, yet became a guiding light for countless souls through prayer, confession, and sacrifice. Like that lighthouse, he did not dominate the sea of human struggle, but he pointed always to Christ.

The Word of God today speaks of simplicity, trust, and freedom from excess—of a heart that does not try to control everything but remains open to God’s providence.

Proverbs reminds us not to seek riches or poverty, but daily bread and a grateful spirit. St. Pio himself lived this radical simplicity of trust, allowing God to work through his weakness.

As we prepare to hear the Lord’s call to mission and dependence, we recognize how often we rely on ourselves rather than on Him. We now turn inward and acknowledge our need for mercy as we begin this Eucharist with the penitential act.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You sent Your disciples to proclaim the Kingdom in trusting poverty and humble faith:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You teach us to receive with gratitude and to depend on the providence of the Father:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You free our hearts from fear, excess, and self-reliance so that we may follow You more faithfully:

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God free us from the burdens that keep us from trusting Him, strengthen us to live with simplicity and grateful hearts, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God, who taught St. Pius of Pietrelcina to follow Christ in humble trust, patient suffering, and generous service, grant that we too may journey lightly through this world, relying on Your providence and welcoming Your grace with grateful hearts, so that our lives may become signs of Your Kingdom to others.

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 traveller once arrived at a railway station carrying two large suitcases, a backpack, and several smaller bags. Watching the train approach, he suddenly realized he could barely move. A porter nearby asked, “Are you going on a journey or moving the house?” Embarrassed, he left behind half of what he carried and discovered that the journey became far easier once he let go of what he did not truly need.

This is very close to what Jesus asks of the Twelve in today’s Gospel. He sends them out with almost nothing, asking them to rely not on possessions but on providence, not on control but on trust. The red thread running through this mission is *mission in trusting poverty and grateful reception*. St. Pius of Pietrelcina understood this deeply: though physically frail and often opposed, he became spiritually fruitful because he relied not on himself but on God’s power at work in his weakness.

Jesus also tells them to stay where they are welcomed and not to move from house to house. There is wisdom here

about learning to receive what is given rather than constantly searching for something better. We are often restless, always thinking that the next situation, relationship, or place will satisfy us more. Yet, like St. Augustine said, our hearts remain restless until they rest in God.

The disciples are, therefore, called not only to give but also to receive—to accept hospitality, to depend on others, and to recognize God working through ordinary people. This challenges our instinct for independence. Life in Christ is not solitary self-sufficiency but shared dependence. Even St. Pio, though spiritually powerful, lived in deep communion with those who sought his counsel and prayer. Jesus gives them authority over demons and power to heal. Yet this authority is placed in fragile vessels. The Gospel is not spread by strength of possessions but by the strength of faith. In this way, God's power becomes visible precisely in human limitation.

The Book of Proverbs echoes this attitude: "Give me neither poverty nor riches, but only my daily bread." It is a

prayer for balance, for a heart free from both pride and despair. St. Pius of Pietrelcina embodied this balance—poor in self-reliance, yet rich in grace; hidden in suffering, yet radiant in spiritual fruitfulness.

There is a striking paradox in Christian mission: the less we cling to, the more freely we can love; the less we control, the more God can act. The Twelve discover that they are most effective when they are least encumbered. The same is true for us. Faith grows not in accumulation but in surrender.

A simple story is told of a bird that lived for years in a beautiful cage. One day, the door was left open, and though it hesitated at first, it eventually flew out into the open sky. It discovered not loss, but freedom—freedom to live as it was created to live. So too, when we let go of what binds us—our excess fears, controls, and securities—we begin to discover the wide horizon of God's mission. Like that bird, like the Twelve, like St. Pio, we are called to live light, trust deeply, and let God be enough.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that trusting not in our own strength but in the providence of God, these gifts we bring with grateful hearts may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, accept these offerings of Your people, and teach us through this sacred mystery to seek neither earthly security nor passing riches, but the daily bread that comes from Your loving hand. May the example of St. Pius inspire us to offer ourselves with simplicity, trust, and joyful surrender. 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 call Your servants to proclaim the Gospel not through worldly power, but through trusting faith and humble dependence upon Your grace. In the lives of the Apostles and of St. Pius of Pietrelcina, You reveal that hearts freed from self-reliance become instruments of healing, mercy, and peace.

Through lives marked by simplicity and surrender, You show the world that Your power shines most clearly in human weakness and that those who trust in You lack nothing essential.

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 Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to pray for the daily bread of trusting hearts and the grace to depend always on our heavenly Father:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every burden that keeps us imprisoned in fear and self-sufficiency, and graciously grant peace in our days, that, trusting in Your providence and freed from needless anxieties, we may become faithful witnesses of the Gospel while we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, You sent Your disciples in simplicity and trust, teaching them to carry peace into every home they entered. Look not on our fears and restless striving, 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 became poor for our sake and teaches us to trust completely in the Father. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The disciples went out carrying little, yet they returned rich in grace because Christ Himself was their strength. In this Eucharist, we too have received not worldly security, but the living Bread that sustains every mission. St. Pius reminds us that holiness is born not from possessing much, but from surrendering much. When we allow God to be enough, our hearts become lighter, freer, and more open to love.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this heavenly sacrament, O Lord, strengthen us to walk in trusting faith and joyful simplicity. As You nourished St. Pius with the grace of the Eucharist, teach us also to rely on Your providence, to receive Your gifts with gratitude, and to become instruments of healing and peace in the world.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Final Blessing

May the Lord free your hearts from every burden that hinders trust. **Amen.**

May He teach you to live with simplicity, gratitude, and confidence in His providence. **Amen.**

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting lightly in earthly things and deeply in the providence of God, glorifying the Lord by your life.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“The less we cling to, the more freely God can work through us.”

24 Sept., 2026 – Thursday, 25th Week in Ord. Time

Eccl 1:2–11; Lk 9:7–9

INTRODUCTION

A commuter once shared how he took the same train every morning for over a decade. One day, out of routine, he began counting the identical advertisements inside the carriage, convinced that nothing ever changed. But that morning, a child entered with her mother, laughing at everything she saw. The man later said it was the first time in years he noticed the sunlight falling through the window—and realised the world had not changed, only his way of seeing it.

In today’s readings, something similar is at work. Ecclesiastes looks at life and sees repetition, weariness, and sameness: “All things are wearisome... there is nothing new under the sun.” Herod, in the Gospel, hears about Jesus but remains trapped in curiosity without conversion—interested, yet unchanged.

The same reality can be interpreted in radically different ways: as burden or blessing, as monotony or mystery. Much depends on the eyes of the heart—whether they are closed in tired familiarity or open to God’s quiet surprises in ordinary life.

As we begin this celebration, we ask for the grace to recognise where our vision has grown dull or cynical, and to prepare ourselves to encounter the Lord who is always new. And so, turning to him with honesty and humility, we begin with the penitential act.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you come to renew hearts that have grown weary and indifferent: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you invite us beyond curiosity into a living encounter with you: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you open our eyes to recognise your presence in the ordinary moments of life: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us for the times we have allowed routine, cynicism, or distraction to close our hearts to his presence, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God,
who reveal your living presence
in the ordinary rhythms of human life,
grant that we may not remain trapped
in weariness or empty curiosity,
but open our hearts to the renewing grace of your Son,
so that, seeing with the eyes of faith,
we may recognise in him
the newness that alone gives lasting meaning and hope.
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 journalist once heard rumours of a wandering healer in the countryside and decided to investigate. He expected a political story or a clever deception. But as he travelled from village to village, he kept hearing the same name: Jesus. The more he heard, the more puzzled he became—not because there was no evidence, but because he could not decide what to do with it.

This is very close to Herod in today's Gospel. Luke tells us that he was perplexed by all he was hearing and began asking, "Who is this I hear such reports about?" He even desired to see Jesus. Yet Herod's desire remains at the level of curiosity. He wants an explanation, not an encounter.

The first reading from Ecclesiastes gives another angle on the human condition. It speaks of weariness, of endless cycles, of the sense that nothing is truly new. When life is seen only through that lens, even the extraordinary begins to look ordinary, and hope quietly fades into routine.

Between Herod's curiosity and Ecclesiastes' weariness, we see two distorted ways of looking at reality: one that reduces Jesus to a problem to be solved, and another that reduces life to repetition without meaning. Both miss the presence of God already at work.

The red thread running through today's Word is this: **when the heart is closed, life becomes repetition; when the heart is open, even curiosity can become a doorway to encounter the living Christ.**

Herod's tragedy is not ignorance, but misdirected interest. He hears enough to be stirred, but not enough to be changed. Later in Luke's Gospel, when Jesus is finally brought before him, Herod's curiosity collapses into ridicule. What was meant to be a search becomes a missed opportunity.

The disciples, however, are invited into something deeper than curiosity. They are not merely observers of Jesus but followers who must learn to see differently—discovering that the "newness" Ecclesiastes fails to find is present in the person of Christ himself, who makes all things new

from within.

A child once stood with her grandfather on a hillside at dusk. The grandfather sighed and said, “Another day gone, nothing special.” The child pointed to the sky and said, “But look—someone is painting it again.” The grandfather looked up more carefully, and for a moment, the ordinary sunset no longer looked ordinary at all.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, and the offering of our lives renewed in faith and hope, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, the gifts we place before you,
and transform the weariness of our hearts
into joyful trust in your providence.

May this sacrifice deepen our encounter with Christ,
so that we may recognise your saving presence
in the ordinary moments of daily life.

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 continue to speak to your people,
not only through mighty signs and wonders,
but also through the quiet and faithful rhythms of daily life.
When human hearts grow weary
and begin to see only repetition and emptiness,
you reveal in your Son the newness of your love,
calling us beyond passing curiosity
into a living encounter with him.

In Christ, the ordinary is touched by grace,
hope is restored,
and all creation is renewed from within.
Through him the blind begin to see,
the searching heart finds meaning,
and your people learn again
to recognise your presence among them.

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...**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Jesus did not remain someone to be observed from a distance, but revealed himself as the One who draws us into a living relationship with the Father. With hearts renewed by his presence and trusting in his love, we dare to pray:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every blindness of heart,
from the weariness that drains hope
and the curiosity that never becomes faith.
Graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may remain open to your presence

and attentive to the quiet ways you renew our lives,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you entered the ordinary paths of human life
to reveal the newness of God's kingdom;
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,
behold him who makes all things new
and opens our eyes to the living presence of God.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

So much of life can appear repetitive and predictable, yet Christ comes quietly into those very places we often overlook. In this Eucharist, the Lord has once again drawn near—not as a distant idea to be examined, but as the living presence who renews the heart from within.

The disciples learned that following Jesus meant seeing differently. The same world remained around them, but nothing was truly ordinary anymore, because Christ was among them. May this communion help us recognise that God is still at work in the unnoticed moments, the familiar routines, and the hidden corners of our daily lives.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, that through this holy sacrament we may learn to recognise your presence with renewed hearts and attentive spirits.

Free us from the dullness that blinds us to your grace, and help us to walk each day in the joy of encountering Christ anew.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord renew your hearts
so that you may recognise his presence
in the ordinary moments of life. **Amen.**

May he free you from weariness and empty distraction,
and fill you with the joy of deeper faith. **Amen.**

May Almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by seeing his presence in all things.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“When the heart is closed, life becomes repetition; when the heart is open, even the ordinary becomes a place of encounter with Christ.”

25 Sept., 2026 – Friday, 25th Week in Ord. Time

Eccl 3:1–11; Lk 9:18–22

In God's time, Christ reveals who he is—and who we are.

INTRODUCTION

In a small coastal town, the old clock tower suddenly stopped one evening. By morning, no one quite knew what time it was. Shops opened late, appointments were missed, and even the rhythm of daily life felt strangely unsettled. The town had not lost anything material, but it had lost its sense of direction.

The Book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is “a time for every matter under heaven.” Yet we also know how easily life can feel uncertain when we lose sight of what gives meaning to our days. We move through changing seasons, searching for clarity, purpose, and hope.

In today's gospel, Jesus asks the decisive question: “Who do you say I am?” In answering that question, we begin to understand not only who Christ is, but also who we are. In him, our passing moments are gathered into God's eternal plan, and our lives receive direction and meaning.

As we prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us acknowledge the times we have failed to recognise Christ's presence, ignored his guidance, or resisted the path of love to which he calls us. With humble hearts, let us seek his mercy in the penitential act.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you reveal the Father's presence within the passing seasons of our lives: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you teach us that true greatness is found in self-giving love and the way of the cross:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you give meaning to our lives and call us to follow you with trust and courage: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us the times we have failed to recognise Christ in our lives, strengthen us to follow him faithfully through every season, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God, who reveal in your Son
the fullness of truth and the meaning of our lives,
grant that, recognising Christ as Lord,
we may follow him with trusting hearts
through every season of joy and trial,
and so come to share in the glory of his Resurrection.
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 visitor once entered a quiet museum room where a single painting hung on the wall. It was beautiful but unsigned, and the guard casually remarked that it was “just an old piece, artist unknown.” Later, an expert arrived and, with great reverence, identified it as a lost masterpiece by one of the greatest painters in history. What had seemed ordinary was revealed as extraordinary once its true identity was known.

This quiet tension between appearance and reality lies also at the heart of today’s gospel. Jesus first asks what the crowds are saying about him. The answers are respectful but incomplete: John the Baptist, Elijah, one of the prophets. They sense greatness, but they do not yet see clearly.

Then comes the more searching question: “But you, who do you say I am?” Peter answers, “The Christ of God.” It is a breakthrough moment, yet even this confession still needs deepening, for Jesus will reveal a Messiah not of triumph alone but of suffering love.

He immediately speaks of the Son of Man who must suffer, be rejected, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. This is not a correction of Peter’s faith but a purification of it. The identity of Jesus cannot be separated from the path of self-giving love he embraces.

The first reading from Ecclesiastes reminds us that everything has its season. In Jesus, however, we discover not only seasons but meaning within them. Even suffering

is drawn into God's time and transformed from within by divine purpose.

Luke notes that this moment of revelation happens in the context of prayer. Jesus does not simply ask questions; he asks them from communion with the Father. His identity is not performed for others but received in relationship, and from that depth he draws others into truth.

For the disciples, and for us, the question is not theoretical. It is personal and decisive. To say "You are the Christ" is also to accept that following him means entering his way of trust, surrender, and love that does not avoid the cross.

And so we are invited to allow our own answers to be reshaped. It is not enough to recognise Jesus as a figure of history or wisdom; we are asked to recognise him as Lord of our lives, the one who gives meaning to our time and direction to our choices.

A young man once travelled far from home and met an elderly stranger on a long journey. They spoke for hours,

sharing stories and hopes. Only later, after parting, did he realise from others that the man he had spoken with was his own father's closest friend—someone who had known his family all along. He had been in the presence of someone significant without fully recognising it. In a similar way, the gospel leaves us with the enduring question: how often do we stand close to Christ without truly knowing who he is?

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that as we place these gifts upon the altar and entrust to God the seasons and struggles of our lives, our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive the gifts we offer in faith, and through this holy sacrifice teach us to recognise your Son more clearly and to follow him more faithfully along the path of self-giving love. 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 guide all times and seasons,
and in the fullness of time
you revealed your Son as the Christ,
not in earthly power alone,
but in humble obedience and saving love.

Through his suffering and resurrection
you opened for us the path to eternal life,
teaching us that even the crosses we bear
can be transformed by your grace
into moments of hope and redemption.

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

Trusting in the Father who guides every season of our lives
and following the Son who revealed himself through self-
giving love, we dare to pray in the words Jesus himself
taught us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that amid the changing seasons of life
we may remain steadfast in recognising your Son
and faithful in following the path he sets before us,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you revealed your glory through humble love
and brought peace through the mystery of the cross;

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,
behold him who reveals the fullness of God's love
and gives meaning to every season of our lives.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Christ does not simply ask the crowds who he is; he asks
each of us personally. In this Eucharist, we have
encountered the One who walks with us through every
season of life. He enters our joys and sufferings, our
certainty and confusion, and gives them meaning through
his presence. To recognise him truly is to allow our lives to
be shaped by his love, his cross, and his hope.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord,
that nourished by these holy mysteries,
we may grow in the knowledge of your Son
and follow him faithfully
through all the seasons of our lives,
until we share fully in the joy of his Resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord guide you through every season of life,
help you to recognise Christ more deeply each day,
and strengthen you to follow him with courage and trust.

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 recognising Christ in your daily lives and following him faithfully through every season.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

To recognise who Christ truly is changes how we understand every season of our lives. In God's time, Christ reveals both his identity and our own calling: to follow him in trust, love, and hope, even through the way of the cross.

26 Sept., 2026 – Saturday, 25th Week in Ord. Time

Eccl 11:9–12:8; Lk 9:43b–45

INTRODUCTION

An old craftsman once received a broken pocket watch from his grandson. The boy had dropped it, and now the hands stood still. Day after day, the old man worked quietly at his bench, opening tiny screws no one else could see, cleaning hidden springs, and carefully reassembling what seemed beyond repair. To the boy watching, much of what his grandfather did made no sense; it looked like disorder rather than healing. Yet, in time, the watch ticked again, perfectly.

Qoheleth in today's first reading reminds us that time itself is fragile and fleeting: youth passes, strength fades, and the structures we rely on eventually crumble. Life, in its passing beauty and its slow decline, is often more mysterious than we care to admit.

In the gospel, too, we encounter mystery—Jesus speaks of being “handed over,” suffering and death, at the very moment when admiration surrounds him. The disciples cannot understand how glory and suffering can belong together.

We, too, often stand before what we cannot explain—our own pain, the suffering of others, the uncertainty of life—and like the disciples, we are tempted to silence and confusion. And so, aware of our limits and our need for God’s light, we turn now to Him with repentant hearts in the penitential act.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You remain faithful even when we cannot understand Your ways: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You entered suffering and transformed it through love: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You guide us through the mysteries of life with patient wisdom and hope: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us for the times we have doubted His presence in moments of confusion and suffering, strengthen us to trust His hidden work within our lives, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose wisdom surpasses all human understanding,
teach us to trust You when life’s path seems uncertain and hidden from our eyes.

Grant that, following Your Son
through both joy and suffering,
we may discover the quiet work of Your saving grace
already unfolding within us.

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 group of students once listened eagerly to a teacher who had just praised their progress. Suddenly, he announced that the next stage of learning would involve a difficult examination they would not fully understand until much later. Confused, they exchanged uneasy glances. The praise had lifted them; the challenge unsettled them. They could not hold both realities together.

In today's gospel, the disciples experience something similar. Just after witnessing Jesus' glory—healing, amazement, admiration—they hear Him speak of being “handed over into the power of men.” The contrast is too sharp. They cannot reconcile divine power with impending suffering, so they remain silent, afraid to ask.

The wisdom of Ecclesiastes deepens this realism: “Remember your Creator in the days of your youth,” before decline sets in, before the body weakens and the world loses its sparkle. Life moves, shifts, and unravels in ways

we do not control. The writer strips away illusion so that we may learn to see more deeply.

Both readings confront us with the same truth: not everything in life can be immediately understood. Glory and suffering, beginnings and endings, strength and decay are woven together in ways that often confound us. Like the disciples, we want clarity; like Qoheleth, we are reminded of limits.

And yet beneath this tension runs a hidden thread—a divine wisdom not always visible on the surface. Let us call it the **red thread: trusting God in the midst of what we do not understand**. It is not a slogan that removes mystery, but a thread that holds us within it.

Jesus Himself does not explain suffering away; He walks into it. His journey to Jerusalem reveals that God is not absent from what confuses us. Rather, He is present in it, working salvation in a way that only time—and eternity—will fully disclose.

The disciples would only understand later, after the Resurrection, that what seemed like defeat was in fact the deepest expression of love. What looked like disorder was redemption being quietly wrought.

A farmer once scattered seed into dark soil and covered it without any sign of immediate growth. Weeks passed with nothing visible above the ground. Yet beneath the surface, life was already stirring, roots forming in silence. What could not be seen was not absent—it was becoming. So too, in our lives, God is often most at work when least visible.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that, trusting God even in what we do not fully understand, our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord,
the gifts we place upon Your altar,
and in Your mercy transform our uncertainty into trust

and our weakness into steadfast faith.

As these offerings are changed by Your grace,
so may our hearts learn to recognize
Your hidden presence at work in all things.
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 guide the course of human life,
teaching us through passing years
that our hope does not rest in what fades away
but in Your eternal love.
When we are confused by suffering,
You reveal in Christ that no darkness is without meaning
and no cross without the promise of resurrection.
Through His surrender into human hands,
You brought forth the victory of salvation,
showing that Your grace is often at work
where we least expect to see it.

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...**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Trusting in the Father whose wisdom quietly guides us
even through life's mysteries and uncertainties, and
following the teaching of His Son, we dare to say:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and strengthen us when life's mysteries weigh heavily
upon us. Grant us the grace to trust in Your hidden
providence and to persevere in hope amid suffering and
uncertainty, as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, who taught Your disciples not to fear the
path that leads through suffering into glory,
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, behold Him who entered the
mystery of suffering to reveal the fullness of divine love.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Much of God's work within us happens quietly, beneath the
surface, beyond immediate understanding. Like seed
hidden in the soil, grace often grows unseen before it
bears fruit. In this Eucharist, Christ strengthens us not with
easy answers, but with His abiding presence. He walks
with us through mystery, teaching us to trust that even
now, God is bringing life out of what seems hidden or
unresolved.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this heavenly sacrament, O Lord,
remain active within us,
strengthening our hearts to trust You
in moments of uncertainty and trial.

As You nourished us with the Body and Blood of Your Son,
help us to follow Him faithfully
until the hidden work of Your grace
is brought to completion in eternal joy.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you. **Amen.**

May He strengthen your hearts to trust Him
when life's path is unclear or difficult. **Amen.**

May He help you recognize His quiet grace
already at work within your lives. **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, trusting that God is at work even in the
mysteries you do not yet understand.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

What seems hidden, delayed, or confusing in our lives may
still be the quiet place where God is bringing His grace to
life.