

27 Sept., 2026 – 26th Sunday in Ord. Time (A Cycle)

Ez 18:25–28; Phil 2:1–11 (or 2:1–5); Mt 21:28–32

INTRODUCTION

A teacher once gave her students a sheet of paper with a tiny black dot in the middle and asked them to describe what they saw. Almost every student spoke about the black dot. Nobody mentioned the large white space around it. The teacher smiled and said: “That is how we often look at life. We focus on failures and forget the much greater space of grace and possibility.”

In today’s Gospel, Jesus speaks about two sons: one who first says “no” but later changes his mind, and another who says “yes” but never follows through. The Lord reminds us that what matters most is not merely what we say, but the direction in which our heart is moving. God never gives up on us. He continues to call us from “no” to “yes,” from selfishness to love, from pride to humility.

Saint Paul, in the second reading, points us to Christ himself, whose whole life became a faithful “yes” to the Father. Jesus emptied himself in humility and obedience, even unto death on a cross. We are invited to have the same mind and heart as Christ.

As we begin this Eucharist, let us acknowledge the times when our words and actions have not matched, when we resisted God’s call, or delayed our response to his grace. Let us ask the Lord to transform our hesitant hearts into generous and faithful disciples.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you never tire of calling sinners back to the Father’s vineyard: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you showed us perfect obedience and humility in doing the Father’s will: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you patiently lead us from “no” to “yes” and shape us into your likeness: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who never ceases to call us back when we wander, forgive our sins, strengthen us to follow Christ more faithfully, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE GLORIA

Because God is patient with our weakness, rich in mercy, and always ready to welcome the repentant heart, let us now lift our voices in praise and sing:

COLLECT

O God, whose mercy is greater than our failures and whose patience leads us always toward conversion, teach us to follow the example of your Son, so that our words and actions may reflect the mind and heart of Christ.
Help us to turn again to you each day with sincerity, humility, and love.
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 : “From No to Yes: Living the Mind of Christ”

A young violin student once performed at a school concert. He played badly. Notes squeaked, rhythm faltered, and halfway through he wanted to stop. When he finally finished, embarrassed and close to tears, he looked down at the floor. But then he heard applause. Looking up, he saw only one person standing and clapping enthusiastically—his teacher. Later the teacher told him, “You are not there yet, but I know what you can become.”

That is how God looks at us. God sees not only where we are now, but what we can become. He does not give up on us because of a bad beginning, a weak response, or even repeated failures. He keeps calling us toward the person we are meant to be.

Today’s Gospel is about exactly that journey—from “no” to “yes.” Jesus tells the simple story of two sons. The father says to the first son, “Go and work in the vineyard.” The son replies bluntly, “No.” Yet later he changes his mind and

goes. The second son says politely, “Yes, sir,” but never goes at all.

At the end Jesus asks: “Which of the two did the father’s will?” The answer is obvious. It was not the one with the beautiful words, but the one whose actions finally matched the father’s desire.

There is an old saying: “Actions speak louder than words.” We know how true that is. Someone promises to help us but never shows up. Another person may sound rude or hesitant at first, but eventually comes through for us when we truly need them.

Jesus shocks his listeners by applying this parable to the religious leaders. He tells the chief priests and elders that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before them. Why? Because sinners who once said “no” to God were now changing their hearts, while the religious leaders continued saying “yes” with their lips but “no” with their lives.

If these words were not in the Gospel, we might think them too harsh. Imagine saying to the spiritual elite of society: “The sinners are entering heaven before you.” Yet Jesus says exactly that.

The Gospel is a mirror held before us. We may not be tax collectors or prostitutes, but how often do we say “yes” to God outwardly while inwardly refusing him?

At a wedding ceremony, the bride and groom are asked: “Are you prepared to take responsibility in the Church and in the world?” They answer, “Yes.” But sometimes that “yes” remains only a word.

At baptism, parents are asked: “Are you willing to bring up your child in the practice of the faith?” Again they answer, “Yes.” Yet often faith slowly disappears from family life.

We all know the gap that can exist between words and deeds.

But the Gospel is not meant to discourage us. It is meant to give hope. Jesus tells us that a bad beginning does not have to be the end. God can live with our initial “no,” provided it slowly becomes a sincere “yes.”

One of the most beautiful lines in today’s Gospel is that the first son “changed his mind.” That is the heart of conversion. The Greek word used in the Gospel suggests an inner change of heart, a rethinking, a turning around.

Many of us have had that experience. We initially refuse a request because it seems inconvenient or demanding. Later we think about it and realize that our first reaction did not reflect the best part of us.

A priest once visited a family before the baptism of their child. During the preparation, the father openly declared, “I will not come to the baptism. I left the Church years ago, and I cannot honestly say I will raise my child in the faith.” His wife sat there in tears.

Then the day of the baptism arrived. Just after the ceremony began, the church door opened quietly. The father entered and sat beside his wife. When the priest asked the parents, “Are you willing to raise your child in the faith?” the man answered firmly, “Yes.”

After the ceremony the wife wept again—but this time with joy. The man later returned fully to the Church. He said, “I realized I did not want to be a hypocrite before my child.”

That is the joy of conversion. Heaven rejoices whenever a “no” becomes a “yes.”

The readings today remind us that God is patient. He never stops knocking at the door of the human heart. Saint Augustine spent years running from God before finally praying, “Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new.” Saint Paul violently opposed Christ before becoming his greatest apostle. Peter denied Jesus three times before becoming the rock of the Church.

God never defines us by our worst moment.

In the second reading, Saint Paul gives us the deepest example of all. He speaks about Jesus Christ himself:

“Though he was in the form of God, he did not cling to equality with God, but emptied himself.”

Paul is telling us what Christian living looks like in practice. Christianity is not simply about religious language or external observance. It is about having “the same mind that was in Christ Jesus.”

What was the mind of Christ?

It was humility. It was obedience. It was self-giving love. It was saying “yes” to the Father even when that “yes” led to suffering and the Cross.

Jesus is the true Son in today’s liturgy—the Son whose whole life was a complete “yes” to the Father’s will.

The Letter to the Hebrews places these words on his lips: “I have come to do your will.” Even in Gethsemane,

trembling in agony, Jesus remained faithful: “Not my will, but yours be done.”

Paul then turns to us and says: “Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus.” In other words: Learn to live like him.

That sounds beautiful—but also difficult.

How do we become more like Christ?

The answer is: slowly, often painfully, through the ordinary circumstances of life.

A priest once prayed earnestly for humility. Soon afterward, he found himself surrounded by people who criticized him constantly. He suffered deeply and complained to God. Then one day he realized: “This is how God is answering my prayer. How else can I learn humility unless I am humbled?”

Sometimes we pray for patience, and God sends difficult people. Sometimes we pray for compassion, and God

sends suffering people into our path. Sometimes we pray for faith, and God allows periods of darkness.

God forms us gradually into the likeness of Christ.

There is a phrase we often use: “We are only human.” Sometimes we use it to excuse mediocrity, selfishness, impatience, or lack of commitment.

“Yes, we are only human.” But the Gospel says something greater: We are called to become Christ-like. That is our vocation.

God trusts that we can love as Jesus loved. God trusts that we can forgive as Jesus forgave. God trusts that we can serve others as Jesus served. God trusts that we can rise again after failure.

A teenager once drifted far away from faith. He stopped going to church and had no interest in confession. During Lent, his mother practically forced him to go to confession to an elderly parish priest. Reluctantly he went.

In the confessional, for the first time, he poured out all his doubts, frustrations, and anger about the Church and faith. The old priest listened patiently, kindly, lovingly. There was no condemnation, only understanding and guidance.

When the teenager returned home, his face was radiant. He told his mother, “You know, the way that priest treated me—that is how I imagine Jesus must have treated people.”

That is the goal of Christian life: that others may look at us and say, “That is how Jesus would have acted.”

The Lord is not asking for perfection overnight. He asks only that we keep moving from “no” toward “yes,” from selfishness toward love, from pride toward humility, from empty words toward faithful action.

And perhaps that is why the Church gives us this Gospel today—not to condemn us, but to reassure us that it is never too late.

As long as there is breath in us, there is still time to change. There is still time to begin again. There is still time to say “yes.”

Let me end with another story. A sculptor was once chiselling a huge block of marble. Someone watching him asked, “How do you know what you are making?” The sculptor replied, “I can already see the figure hidden inside. My task is simply to remove everything that does not belong.” That is what God is doing with us.

He already sees the image of Christ hidden within us. Through joy and suffering, through failure and grace, through repentance and renewal, he patiently chips away everything that does not belong.

One day, by his grace, others may look at us and say: “So the way this person lives, speaks, forgives, and loves—that is how Christ himself would have lived.” Amen.

INVITATION TO THE CREDO

United in the faith of the Church and trusting in the God who continually calls us to deeper conversion, let us now profess our faith together.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (for personal meditation only)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
who never gives up on his children
and who continually calls us back to himself
with patience, mercy, and love.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who became man for our salvation,
who said a perfect “yes” to the Father’s will,
and who taught us through humility, obedience, and self-giving love how to live as children of God.
He suffered, died, and rose again
so that our failures would never have the final word
and that we might always have the grace to begin again.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who gently changes our hearts,
leads us from “no” to “yes,” strengthens us in weakness,
and forms within us the mind and heart of Christ.

I believe in the holy Catholic Church,
called to witness not only by words but by deeds;
in the communion of saints,
many of whom found their way to God
after wandering far from him;
in the forgiveness of sins,
which renews us again and again;
in the resurrection of the body,
and in life everlasting,
where all who remain faithful to Christ
will share in his glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice, and the
offering of our lives — with all our struggles, failures, and
sincere desire to grow into the mind of Christ — may be
acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord,
accept these gifts which we offer with humble hearts,
and transform us through this sacrifice
into people whose lives reflect the obedience, humility,
and self-giving love of Christ your Son.
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 mercy you never abandon your people,
but continually call us back to yourself.

When we wander from your ways,
you invite us again into your vineyard.

When our words fail to become deeds,
you patiently teach us through your Son
the way of humble obedience and faithful love.

In Christ Jesus

you have shown us the perfect “yes” to your will.
Though he was equal to you in glory,
he emptied himself for our salvation
and became obedient even unto death on a cross.
By his humility we are raised up,
by his faithfulness we are redeemed,
and by his example we learn to live as your children.

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

God patiently waits for his children to return to him and
teaches us, through Christ, to trust him completely. With
confidence, we now pray in the words our Saviour gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from the hardness of heart
that keeps us from responding fully to your call.
In your mercy, lead us from fear to trust,
from selfishness to generous love,
and from empty words to faithful action,
that we may always be 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 by your life
that true peace comes through humility, forgiveness, and
obedience to the Father’s will.
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 never ceases to call sinners to conversion
and who strengthens us to live the mind of Christ.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,
you know how often our words and actions fail to match.
Yet you never stop calling us closer to yourself.
In this Eucharist you nourish us with your own life
so that, little by little,
our hesitant hearts may become faithful hearts,
our selfishness may become love,
and our “no” may become a generous “yes.”

Teach us to live as you lived,
to love as you loved,
and to trust the Father as you trusted him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this heavenly sacrament, O Lord,
continue to transform our hearts and minds,
so that, strengthened by the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may live more faithfully according to your will
and bear witness to the Gospel
through lives of humble and loving service.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord, who patiently leads us from darkness into
light, strengthen you to follow Christ with sincere hearts.

May he help you each day
to turn your words into deeds
and your faith into loving action.

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 that say “yes” to God not only in words, but also in deeds.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

God is not asking for perfect people.
He asks only for hearts willing to keep moving from “no” to “yes.”

29. Sept., 26th Week, Ord. Time 2026

Job 1,6-22; Lk 9,46-50

“True greatness is found in humble openness to God’s work beyond our expectations.”

INTRODUCTION

In one office, two colleagues competed intensely for a promotion. They worked longer hours, tried to impress everyone, and quietly measured themselves against each other. Yet when the decision came, neither was chosen. Instead, the position went to a quiet colleague whose strength was helping others succeed. The manager explained simply: “He made others better without trying to be better than them.”

Life often surprises us in this way. We naturally admire recognition, influence, and control, yet God frequently works through humility, hidden goodness, and quiet service. What appears small in human eyes may carry great value before God.

Today's readings invite us to see differently. Jesus places a child before his disciples and teaches them that true greatness lies in humble openness to God's work, even beyond our expectations. Job, too, is drawn into a mystery larger than he can understand, yet he continues to stand before God in trust.

As we begin this Eucharist, let us acknowledge the times we have sought recognition instead of service, excluded others too quickly, or failed to recognize God's quiet work around us. With humble hearts, let us ask the Lord for mercy.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you welcome the humble and reveal your greatness through the small and hidden:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you teach us to recognize God's work even beyond the limits we set: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to trust you when life is confusing and beyond our understanding: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us from pride and narrowness into the humble freedom of his Kingdom, where his grace is at work in ways beyond our expectations, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who teach us that true greatness is found in humble openness to your will and in welcoming your presence in the least of our brothers and sisters,

grant that we may trust your wisdom when life surpasses our understanding and rejoice whenever your goodness appears in unexpected ways.

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 child once noticed a classmate sitting alone during lunch. Without saying much, she simply moved her own seat and shared her sandwich. No one applauded. No one recorded it. Yet that small gesture changed the atmosphere of the entire classroom for weeks.

It is striking that Jesus begins today's Gospel conversation not with a lecture, but with a correction of a dispute: "which of them was the greatest." The disciples are thinking in categories of rank, visibility, and recognition. But Jesus responds by pointing to something almost invisible—a child.

In placing the child beside himself, Jesus overturns their assumptions. The child has no status, no authority, no claim to greatness. Yet Jesus identifies with this very one. *God's greatness is found in humble openness to God's work beyond our expectations.*

This same openness is expressed in Jesus' surprising words: "Anyone who is not against you is for you." The disciples want control over who belongs and who does not. But Jesus widens the horizon. God's Spirit is not imprisoned within their boundaries.

We see something similar in the Book of Job. A heavenly scene unfolds where suffering enters human life through mysterious permission. Job's world collapses, not because he has failed, but because he is caught in a reality larger than his understanding. Yet even there, God has not withdrawn.

The red thread becomes clearer: what looks like loss of control may actually be the space where God is most present. The disciples want clarity—who is greatest, who belongs, who does not. Job wants explanation. But God is inviting trust in a deeper wisdom at work beyond sight.

Jesus teaches that greatness is not about dominance but receptivity—welcoming the least, recognizing goodness in unexpected places, and refusing the urge to define God's

work too narrowly. The Kingdom is larger than the circle we draw around it.

In ordinary life, this becomes very practical. We are called to rejoice when goodness appears outside our expectations, to serve without needing recognition, and to trust that God is active even when outcomes are confusing or reversed.

Years later, that child who once shared her lunch was remembered not for academic excellence or awards, but by the classmate she befriended, who later said, “That day, I learned I mattered.” No one else remembered the moment—but something of God’s Kingdom had quietly taken root there.

We end where we began: with unnoticed goodness that reveals a greater truth. The disciples were still learning what greatness means. So are we. And in that learning, God continues to meet us in the small, the hidden, and the unexpected.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

With humble hearts, let us place before the Lord not only these gifts of bread and wine, but also our desire to serve quietly, trust deeply, and recognize his work beyond our expectations. Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord,
the gifts we bring before you in humility,
and teach us through this sacred offering
to seek not our own greatness but the quiet service of your Kingdom.

May these mysteries open our hearts
to recognize your grace at work in ways beyond our expectations.

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 your greatness through
humility and make your presence known in what the world
often overlooks. In your Son, Jesus Christ,
you welcomed the little ones, strengthened the forgotten,
and taught us to recognize your Spirit
at work beyond the limits of human expectation.
Even in moments of suffering and uncertainty,
you remain near to your people, guiding them toward a
wisdom deeper than human understanding. Through
Christ, you call us to trust your hidden work and to rejoice
wherever goodness takes root.
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

Jesus teaches us that true greatness is found in humility,
trust, and openness to God's work in unexpected ways.
With the confidence of children welcomed into the Father's
love, let us pray together in the words our Savior gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and 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 learn to trust your wisdom
when life surpasses our understanding
and to recognize your presence in the humble and
unexpected,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught your disciples that true greatness is found not in power but in humble service and openness of heart.

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 welcomes the little ones and reveals
God's Kingdom in humble and hidden ways.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

God often works quietly, beyond recognition and beyond expectation.

The child welcomed by Jesus, the unnoticed act of kindness, the goodness found outside familiar boundaries—these reveal the hidden presence of the Kingdom.

In this Eucharist, Christ again teaches us that greatness is not achieved by standing above others, but by making room for others, trusting God's wisdom, and welcoming his work wherever it appears.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this heavenly sacrament, O Lord,
transform our hearts in humility and trust,
so that, strengthened by the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may recognize your presence in the small and unexpected and serve others without seeking recognition.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you with humble hearts that recognize his presence in the least and the hidden. Amen.

May he strengthen you to trust his wisdom when life is difficult to understand. 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 welcoming his work in the humble, the hidden, and the unexpected.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

True greatness begins when we stop seeking recognition and start recognizing God quietly at work in others.

adapt the following two: Invitation to the Prayer Over the Offerings; Invitation to the Our Father

29 Sept., 2026 – Tuesday

(Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael – Feast)

Dan 7:9–10, 13–14 (or Rev 12:7–12a); Jn 1:47–51

Jesus, the meeting place where heaven touches earth.

INTRODUCTION

A young boy once asked his grandmother where God lived. She pointed to the sky and said, “In heaven.” Then she paused, touched his chest gently, and added, “And also here—if you let Him in.” The boy looked puzzled, as if trying to imagine how heaven and his small heart could possibly be connected.

That simple question—where is God?—has followed humanity through every age. People have looked for signs, messengers, and glimpses of heaven breaking into earth. In the Scriptures, angels often appear at those moments: bringing news, protection, healing—reminding us that God is not distant.

Today we celebrate Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael—messengers of God’s power, word, and healing. Yet even as we honour them, the readings gently shift our gaze beyond them. Angels open doors, but they are not the destination.

As we gather in God’s presence, we may recognise that we have often looked for God in the wrong places, or failed to notice Him already near. Let us ask pardon for those moments, and prepare our hearts to encounter the One who is truly the meeting place of heaven and earth.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you open heaven to all who seek you with sincere hearts: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you are the bridge between heaven and earth, leading us to the Father: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to reflect your light and become messengers of hope and peace: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who sent his angels to guide and protect his people, forgive us for the times we have failed to recognise the presence of Christ among us, strengthen us to walk in his light, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who in your wondrous providence send your holy Angels to watch over us, grant that, through the intercession of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, we may keep our eyes fixed on Christ, the meeting place of heaven and earth, and become faithful witnesses of your light, healing, and peace 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

A traveller once spent a night in a remote place, using a stone as his pillow. In the night he dreamed of a ladder stretching from earth to heaven, with messengers going up and down. When he awoke, he said in awe, “God was here, and I did not know it.” That ancient story of Jacob echoes quietly in today’s Gospel.

Jesus takes that old image and transforms it. He tells Nathanael that he will see “heaven laid open and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.” No longer a ladder, no longer just a place—now it is a person. Jesus himself is the bridge.

This is the heart of today’s feast. Michael defends, Gabriel announces, Raphael heals—they are all servants, all messengers. Their mission is real and important. But their deepest role is to point beyond themselves. They are like signposts, not the destination.

Because in Jesus, something entirely new has happened. He is not only from heaven, like the angels; he is also fully of the earth. He is God and human together. In him, heaven is no longer distant. Heaven has come close—close enough to touch, to hear, to see.

That is why the Gospel lingers on Nathanael. At first, he is sceptical: “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” He does not expect much. Yet when he encounters Jesus, something shifts. He moves from doubt to recognition, from hesitation to faith. The meeting changes him.

And that is still how God works. Not first through extraordinary visions, but through encounter. We may not see angels ascending and descending, but we are invited to “come and see,” as Nathanael did—to discover, slowly, that Christ is present in the ordinary moments of life.

The danger, however, is subtle. We can become fascinated with signs, with messengers, even with spiritual experiences—and yet miss Christ himself. The feast

reminds us to keep our focus clear: the angels serve, but Jesus saves. The angels guide, but Jesus is the way.

More than that, we are drawn into this mystery. If Christ is the meeting place of heaven and earth, then those who belong to him are sent to reflect that same connection. In quiet ways, we become messengers too—bringing protection, hope, healing, and good news into the lives of others.

A nurse who sits patiently with the dying, a friend who speaks a word of encouragement at the right time, a person who stands up against what is wrong—these are not dramatic acts, but they allow something of heaven to touch the earth.

There is a quiet promise in today's Gospel: "You will see greater things." Faith is not a finished journey. Like Nathanael, we begin with a first encounter, but we are always being led deeper, invited to see more, to recognise more, to trust more.

A man once visited a cathedral and spent his time admiring

the stained-glass windows. The colours, the figures, the beauty—it all captivated him. But as he was leaving, he realised something: the windows were only beautiful because light was shining through them. Without the light, they would be dark and lifeless.

So it is with the angels—and with us. Their beauty, their mission, their power all come from the light of Christ. And when that same light shines through our lives, even in the smallest ways, heaven quietly touches the earth again.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that through this offering we may be drawn ever closer to Christ, through whom heaven touches earth, and that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We offer you, Lord,
this sacrifice of praise
as we honour your holy Angels,
and we humbly ask
that, guided by their service and example,
we may be led always to Christ your Son,
whose light gives life to all creation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE: *The mission of the Angels and Christ the Lord*

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 loving providence you send the holy Angels
to guard, guide, and strengthen your people on their
earthly journey.

Through Michael you reveal your power over evil,
through Gabriel your living word of promise,

and through Raphael your healing and compassionate
care.

Yet in the fullness of time
you gave us your Son, Jesus Christ,
the true meeting place of heaven and earth.
In him the gates of heaven are opened,
and through him humanity is drawn into communion with
you.

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 divine teaching,
let us pray to the Father through Christ, who opens heaven
to us and gathers us into one family:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and open our eyes to recognise your presence among us.
When we are distracted by signs and uncertainties,
keep our hearts fixed on Christ, the true bridge between
heaven and earth. 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 are the bridge between heaven and earth,
the peace that reconciles humanity with the Father;
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 opens heaven to
us and leads us to the Father.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The angels point the way, but Christ is the way.
In this Eucharist heaven has touched earth once again,
not through visions or signs,
but through the quiet gift of Christ himself.
May his light shine through us,
so that in our words, our kindness, and our courage,
others may discover that God is nearer than they
imagined.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having been nourished at the table of heaven,
we ask you, Lord,
that through the ministry of your holy Angels
we may continue to walk faithfully with Christ,
and become living signs of your presence in the world,
bringing hope, healing, and peace to all we meet.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord, who has opened heaven to us in Christ, fill your hearts with his light and peace. Amen.

May Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael protect you, guide you, and strengthen you in every trial. 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 letting the light of Christ shine through your lives.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The angels are signs pointing toward Christ. When his light shines through our lives—in kindness, truth, healing, and courage—heaven quietly touches the earth again.

30 Sept., 2026 – Wed., (St Jerome – Memorial)

Job 9:1–12, 14–16; Lk 9:57–62

“Today, without looking back.”

INTRODUCTION

A young man once signed up for a volunteer mission overseas. He was enthusiastic, generous, and sincere. But each time the departure date approached, he found a reason to delay—unfinished business, family matters, a job opportunity. “I’ll go next year,” he would say. Years passed. One day he realized the call that once stirred his heart had grown faint—not because it disappeared, but because he had kept postponing his “yes.”

There is something deeply human about that hesitation. We recognize what is good, what is right, even what God might be asking of us—but we delay. We negotiate. We wait for a “better time,” as if the call of God were something that could be scheduled at our convenience.

St. Jerome, whose memorial we celebrate today, knew the danger of delay. He once wrote, “Begin now what you will be hereafter.” For him, the Christian life was not something to be postponed. It demanded decision, clarity, and courage in the present moment.

As we gather in this Eucharist, we might ask ourselves: how often have we delayed responding to the Lord’s voice? How often have we looked back instead of moving forward? Let us bring these hesitations before God now, and ask for mercy and the grace to respond “today,” as we enter into the penitential act.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us to follow you with undivided hearts:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you forgive us when fear and hesitation keep us from responding to your call: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you lead us forward into the freedom and joy of your Kingdom: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us for the times we delayed responding to his grace, for the moments we looked back instead of trusting his call, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who gave Saint Jerome a living and tender love for Sacred Scripture, grant that your people may nourish themselves more fully on your word and find in it the courage to follow your Son without hesitation or fear. Teach us to answer your call today with faithful and undivided hearts, and to persevere without looking back on the path of discipleship.

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 of a farmer teaching his son how to plough a straight furrow. He told the boy, “Fix your eyes on a tree at the far end of the field and walk straight toward it.” The boy began well, but after a few steps he kept turning his head to see how he was doing. When he finished, the furrow was crooked. “Why didn’t you go straight?” the father asked. The boy replied, “I kept looking back.” The father smiled and said, “That’s exactly why.”

In today’s gospel, Jesus uses a similar image: *“No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”* It is a striking and even unsettling statement. Jesus encounters three would-be followers. Each seems willing—but each hesitates. One is too quick and unaware of the cost. The other two offer reasonable requests: to bury a father, to say farewell to family. Yet Jesus responds with urgency and firmness.

At first, his words can seem harsh. After all, are these not legitimate responsibilities? But Jesus is not dismissing human duties; he is revealing something deeper—the

radical and urgent nature of discipleship. The call to follow him is not one commitment among many; it is the centre that gives meaning to all others.

There is an urgency in Jesus’ mission. His time is short, and the kingdom of God is at hand. So he calls for a response that is not delayed, not divided, not distracted. “Today,” not tomorrow. “Fully,” not halfway. The danger is not refusal, but postponement—the quiet assumption that we can answer later.

We recognize this in our own lives. We sense a nudge to forgive, but we wait. We feel called to serve, but we hesitate. We know what is right, but we delay. Like the people in the gospel, we say, “Yes, Lord—but first...” And that “but first” can stretch indefinitely.

St. Jerome, a man of intense conviction, understood this well. He devoted his life to Scripture with discipline and passion, not because it was easy, but because he refused to give God leftovers. His life reminds us that holiness is not found in vague intention but in decisive commitment. Jesus’ image of the plough also speaks of focus. To follow

him is to move forward with a clear direction. Looking back here is not about memory or reflection; it is about divided loyalty. It is about clinging to what we have left behind, second-guessing our choice, or holding back part of ourselves.

Yet this call is not meant to burden us but to free us. A life constantly looking back becomes fragmented and restless. A life given fully to Christ becomes unified and purposeful. When we fix our eyes on him, the path—even if demanding—becomes clear.

There is another story of a woman who, after years of indecision, finally chose to reconcile with her estranged sister. She later said, “I wish I had done it sooner. All those years, I was holding on to the past, and it held me back.” The moment she chose to act, her life began to move forward again.

“Today, without looking back.” That is the invitation of this gospel. Not perfection, not instant heroism—but a real, present, wholehearted “yes.” Today, the Lord calls. Today, we respond.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that we may place before God not only these gifts of bread and wine, but also our willingness to follow Christ today with trusting and wholehearted hearts, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, accept the offerings we bring before you as we seek to follow your Son with greater fidelity and courage.

Free us from divided hearts and from the habit of delay, so that, strengthened by this sacrifice, we may walk steadily in the way of 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 you continually call your people
to walk in the way of your Son
with hearts that are faithful and free.
In Christ, you teach us not to cling to the past
or delay the work of grace,
but to answer your invitation today
with trust and generosity.

In Saint Jerome, you gave your Church a servant
who loved your word with passion and discipline,
and who showed by his life
that holiness grows through decisive and faithful
commitment.

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 trusting hearts to the Father who calls us
each day to follow his Son without fear or delay:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from the fear, hesitation, and divided loyalties
that keep us from responding fully to your call;
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 await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you call your disciples to follow you with
steadfast and trusting hearts.

Look not on our reluctance and delays, but on our desire to
walk in your truth. Grant us the peace that comes from
surrendering ourselves fully to your will, 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 today to follow him with undivided hearts.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, you have fed us with your Body and Blood
and strengthened us for the journey of discipleship.
Keep our eyes fixed on you so that we may not become
distracted by fear, regret, or hesitation.
Teach us to live this day faithfully, to love generously,
and to follow you without looking back.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these holy mysteries, O Lord,
which we have received with thanksgiving,
strengthen us to respond more readily to your grace
and to follow Christ with faithful perseverance.
Through the example of Saint Jerome,
may your word remain alive within us
and guide our steps each day toward your Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you with the courage to answer his call
without delay. Amen.
May he free your hearts from fear, hesitation, and divided
loyalties. Amen.
And may he keep your eyes fixed on Christ,
so that you may follow him faithfully each day without
looking back. 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 in peace, glorifying the Lord by responding to his call
today, without looking back.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The greatest obstacle to discipleship is often not refusal,
but postponement. Christ does not ask for a perfect future
promise, but for a wholehearted “yes” today.

1 October, 2026 – Thursday, 26th Week in Ord. Time

(St Thérèse of the Child Jesus – Memorial)

Job 19:21–27; Lk 10:1–12

“The kingdom of God is very near.”

INTRODUCTION

A teacher once noticed a quiet child in her class who never seemed to stand out. No prizes, no applause, no dramatic moments—just steady kindness. At the end of the year, the teacher asked the class who had made the biggest difference to them. To her surprise, many named that quiet child. It was the small, hidden acts—sharing, listening, encouraging—that had shaped the whole class.

We often think that only visible achievements matter. Yet today’s Gospel and the witness of Saint Thérèse remind us that God’s kingdom often grows silently, through unnoticed acts of love, prayer, patience, and fidelity. The kingdom of God is very near, even when its presence seems hidden beneath ordinary life.

Jesus sends out the seventy-two disciples into the harvest, not with power or prestige, but with trust. Saint Thérèse,

though hidden within a convent, became a missionary through her love and sacrifice. She teaches us that every act done with love becomes part of God’s work in the world.

As we gather around this Eucharistic table, let us recognize the ways we may have overlooked God’s quiet presence, doubted the value of small acts of love, or become discouraged when we did not see immediate results. Let us ask the Lord for mercy and healing as we prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you proclaim that the kingdom of God is very near: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you call us to labour faithfully in your harvest, even when the fruits are unseen: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you teach us through Saint Thérèse that no act of love is ever wasted: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the God whose kingdom is always near
have mercy on us,
forgive the times we have failed to trust
in the value of hidden love and quiet fidelity,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
who open the riches of your kingdom
to the humble and trusting of heart,
grant that, following the little way of Saint Thérèse,
we may serve you faithfully in the small duties of daily life
and proclaim by our love
that your kingdom is very near.
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 man once planted a tree in a dry and unpromising patch of land. His neighbours laughed, saying it would never grow. For years, nothing seemed to happen. But he continued to water it quietly each day. One day, long after many had forgotten, the tree burst into life, offering shade and fruit to all. What seemed useless had been quietly preparing for abundance.

In today's Gospel, Jesus sends out seventy-two disciples into the harvest. It is a striking image: the work of God is too great for a small group. The harvest is rich, the fields are wide, and many labourers are needed. Each is sent with a simple mission—to bring peace and to proclaim, *"The kingdom of God is very near."*

That message does not change depending on the response. Whether welcomed or rejected, the disciples are to say the same words. Because the truth remains the same: *the kingdom of God is very near*. God's presence does not depend on human approval. It does not grow

stronger when accepted or weaker when rejected. It simply is—constant, faithful, near.

This is where Saint Thérèse speaks powerfully into the Gospel. She was not among the seventy-two who travelled from town to town. Her mission unfolded within the walls of a convent. Yet through prayer, love, and sacrifice, she entered deeply into the Church's mission. She became a labourer in the harvest in a hidden but profound way.

Thérèse teaches us that there are many ways to say, "*The kingdom of God is very near.*" Some proclaim it with words; others with lives shaped by quiet love. Some go out to distant lands; others remain and hold the mission together through prayer. What unites all these forms of labour is trust—that God is already at work.

The Gospel also prepares us for discouragement. Not every town will welcome the message. Not every effort will bear visible fruit. Yet Jesus insists: even there, even in rejection, "*the kingdom of God is very near.*" God is as present on Good Friday as on Easter Sunday. The

apparent absence of success does not mean the absence of God.

In our own lives, we may sometimes feel that our efforts are small, unnoticed, or ineffective. We may wonder whether what we do really matters. Thérèse would gently answer: nothing done with love is ever wasted. The smallest act, offered to God, becomes part of his great harvest.

Returning to the man and the tree, what sustained him was not immediate results, but quiet fidelity. He trusted that life was at work beneath the surface. So it is with us. We are called to labour in the Lord's field in our own way—sometimes seen, often unseen—but always rooted in the certainty that *the kingdom of God is very near.*

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord,
receive the offerings we place before you
and transform our small acts of faith and love
into a fruitful harvest for your kingdom.
As Saint Thérèse served you through hidden sacrifice,
teach us to trust that nothing offered in love is ever lost.
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 draw near to your people
in ways often hidden from human eyes.
In your Son, Jesus Christ,
you proclaimed that your kingdom is very near,

calling labourers into your harvest
to sow peace, mercy, and hope.

In Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus
you revealed the beauty of humble fidelity.
Though hidden from the world,
she became a light for the whole Church,
teaching us that even the smallest act of love
shares in the saving work of Christ.

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

Trusting that the Father is always near to his children
and that no act of love offered to him is ever lost,
let us pray with confidence in the words Jesus himself has
given us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and strengthen us when our efforts seem unnoticed or
fruitless.

Grant us the patience to labour faithfully in your harvest
and the trust to believe that your kingdom is always near.
As we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you sent your disciples to bring peace wherever they went
and reminded them that the kingdom of God is very near.
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 near to us in mercy, strength, and love.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is very near.
It is near in the quiet prayer that no one notices,
in the hidden sacrifice offered with love,
in the small acts of kindness that sustain others.
Saint Thérèse reminds us that holiness is not measured by
visibility, but by love faithfully given.
Christ has come near to us in this Eucharist;
may we now carry his presence quietly into the world.

Prayer after Communion

Nourished by these sacred mysteries, O Lord, may we
continue to labour faithfully in your harvest with humble
and trusting hearts. Teach us, through the example of
Saint Thérèse, to recognize your kingdom near at hand
in the ordinary moments of life and in every act of love
offered to you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you with the quiet strength of Saint Thérèse, that you may serve him faithfully in the small things of daily life. Amen.

May he help you to trust that no act of love is ever wasted and that his kingdom is always near. 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 faithful and loving service.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“The kingdom of God is very near” — even in the smallest act of love faithfully offered to God.

2 October, 2026 – Friday, 26th Week in Ord. Time

(Holy Guardian Angels – Memorial)

Job 38:1, 12–21 or Ex 23,20-23; 40:3–5; Mt 18:1–5, 10

Never alone: guided, guarded, and led to God.

INTRODUCTION

There is a touching story of a child who told his mother that an “invisible friend” walked with him to school each day. At first she smiled at the imagination of childhood, until the child quietly added, “He reminds me to be kind when I forget.” In that simple remark was a deep truth: the awareness that he was not alone, that someone unseen was gently guiding him.

Today, as we celebrate the Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels, the Church reminds us that God never leaves His children unattended. From the beginning of our lives, He entrusts us to heavenly companions who guide, protect, and lead us toward Him. They are signs of His loving care and constant presence.

Jesus tells us in the Gospel that these angels continually behold the face of the Father. They stand before God even as they walk beside us. Quietly, often unnoticed, they encourage us toward goodness, warn us against danger, and draw us closer to the Lord.

Yet there are moments when we ignore God's guidance, resist His promptings, or live as though we were alone. Therefore, with humble and trusting hearts, let us ask the Lord for mercy and forgiveness.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You send Your angels to guide us in the paths of truth and peace: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You call us to become like little children, trusting in the Father's care: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You never abandon Your people but lead them safely toward the Kingdom: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the merciful Father forgive us for the times we have ignored His guidance, resisted His grace, and forgotten that we are never alone. May He strengthen us through the help of His holy angels, keep us safe from all evil, and lead us faithfully on the path that brings us home to Him.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
who in Your loving providence
surround Your people with the care of Your holy angels,
grant that, trusting in Your constant guidance,
we may walk faithfully in the paths of goodness,
be protected from the dangers of sin,
and be led safely to the place You have prepared for 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

There is a story of a traveller crossing a dangerous mountain path at night. The fog was thick, the road narrow, and every step uncertain. At one point, he felt a firm hand pulling him back just as he was about to step forward. When the fog lifted at dawn, he saw that one more step would have sent him over a cliff. He never saw who held him—but he never forgot that he had been saved.

Today's feast invites us to recognize that our lives are often like that journey—full of unseen dangers, hidden turns, and uncertain paths. And yet, we are not left to walk alone. God, in His providence, has given us Holy Guardian Angels to guide and guard us along the way—*never alone: guided, guarded, and led to God.*

In the first reading, God promises, “I will send an angel before you, to guard you on the way and bring you to the place I have prepared.” This is not just a message for Israel long ago; it is a promise for each of us. Our life is a

pilgrimage, and the destination is not random—it is the place God has prepared: life with Him.

The Gospel deepens this mystery. Jesus tells us that the angels of the “little ones” are always in the presence of the Father. Our guardian angels are, in a sense, in two places at once: with us in our daily struggles and in heaven interceding for us. They see God—and they see us. They know the way—and they gently urge us to follow it.

But Jesus also places a child in the midst of the disciples and says that greatness lies in becoming like this child. Why? Because a child knows how to trust, how to depend, how to be led. Perhaps one reason we fail to notice our guardian angels is that we have lost that childlike openness. We prefer control over trust, certainty over surrender.

The presence of the Holy Guardian Angels reminds us that guidance often comes quietly. Not in dramatic signs, but in small inner promptings: a call to patience instead of anger, to honesty instead of compromise, to compassion instead

of indifference. These are not accidents; they are often the gentle work of grace, aided by those heavenly companions.

At the same time, today's feast challenges us. If angels are messengers and guardians, then we, too, are called to reflect that role for one another. We are sent to be signs of God's care—protecting the vulnerable, encouraging the weary, guiding those who have lost their way. In this sense, we can become, for others, a visible echo of the invisible angels.

It is also worth asking, as Pope Francis once did: Do I speak to my guardian angel? Do I listen? Do I acknowledge this companion who is a sign of God's personal love for me? A relationship ignored remains a gift unopened.

In the end, the feast of the Holy Guardian Angels is not about curiosity regarding the unseen, but about confidence in God's care. We are never abandoned, never forgotten, never alone. Even when the path is unclear, we are being led—step by step—toward God.

And so we return to where we began: like that traveller on the mountain path, there are moments when we are held back from harm, guided away from danger, and led toward life—often without realizing it. Only in time, or perhaps only in eternity, will we fully see how often our guardian angel has walked beside us... quietly guiding us home.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that as we place these gifts upon the altar, we may also entrust our lives more fully to God's loving guidance, so that, accompanied by His holy angels, our sacrifice and our hearts may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive the gifts we bring before You as we celebrate the memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels. May this sacrifice strengthen us to listen more attentively to Your voice, follow Your ways with childlike trust, and walk safely under the protection of Your heavenly messengers. 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 loving wisdom
You never leave Your people to walk alone.
You send Your holy angels
to guard us on our journey,
to guide us in moments of uncertainty,
and to lead us toward the life You have prepared for us.

In them we see the tenderness of Your providence
and the nearness of Your care,
for they stand before Your heavenly throne
while accompanying us through the trials of this earthly
pilgrimage.
Through their quiet assistance,
You call us to trust like children
and to walk in confidence along the path of salvation.

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,
let us pray with the trust of children who know they are
never abandoned, for the Father guides and guards His
people always:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, aided by Your mercy
and protected by the help of Your holy angels,
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, on the uncertain paths of life
You never leave Your people abandoned,
but guide them with Your grace
and surround them with the care of Your holy angels.
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 never leaves us
alone but leads us safely to the Father. Blessed are those
called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, how often You have guided us without our noticing,
protected us without our seeing,
and led us away from dangers we never understood.

Thank You for the quiet presence of Your holy angels,
for the gentle inspirations toward goodness,
for the unseen reminders of Your love.

Teach us to walk with the trust of children,
to listen more carefully to Your voice,
and to become for others signs of Your care and
compassion.

May we never forget that we are always held within Your
loving gaze.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the Bread of heaven,
we humbly ask You, Lord,
that through the loving protection of Your holy angels
we may persevere in Your grace,
walk faithfully in the path of holiness,
and be brought safely to the eternal home You have
prepared for us.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord, who in His loving providence entrusts you to the care of His holy angels, guide your steps in peace, protect you from all evil, and lead you safely toward eternal life.

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

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, trusting that you are never alone, for God's holy angels walk with you and lead you toward Him.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

"God's guidance is often quiet, but never absent. We are never alone: guided, guarded, and gently led home to God."

3 October, 2026 – Saturday, 26th Week in Ord. Time

Job 42:1–3, 5–6, 12–17; Lk 10:17–24

"Rejoice not in what we do, but in who holds us."

INTRODUCTION

A teacher once asked her students to draw what they thought heaven looked like. Most of the children drew clouds, angels, and bright golden light. But one little boy simply drew a small house with a table, and people sitting around it smiling. When the teacher asked him to explain, he said, "Heaven is where you belong and where someone is happy you are there." There was something profoundly simple and true in that child's answer.

We often imagine heaven in grand and distant ways, yet the Gospel today gently brings it closer. Jesus reminds his disciples that the greatest joy is not power, success, or achievement, but belonging to God. "Rejoice," he says, "that your names are written in heaven."

The Lord reveals this mystery not to the proud or self-sufficient, but to the little ones—to hearts that are humble, trusting, and open to grace. Like Job, who moved from questioning to encounter, we too are invited to discover peace not in having all the answers, but in knowing that God holds us in love.

And yet, we often rejoice more in our accomplishments than in God's mercy, more in what we do than in who we are before Him. Therefore, with humble and childlike hearts, let us ask the Lord for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you teach us to rejoice not in power or success, but in belonging to the Father:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you reveal the mysteries of God to the humble and the little ones: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to rest in the love that never passes away: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the merciful Lord forgive us for the pride that seeks recognition more than relationship, heal the fears that keep us from trusting like children, and lead us into the joy of knowing that our names are written in heaven.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who teach us that the deepest joy of the human heart is found not in earthly success but in belonging to you,

grant us the humility of little children,

that, trusting completely in your love,

we may rejoice always in the grace

of having our names written in heaven.

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 of a young musician who performed brilliantly at a concert. The audience rose in applause, and after the performance he was glowing with pride.

Backstage, he found his teacher quietly waiting. “You played well,” the teacher said, “but tell me—did you play for the applause, or for the love of the music?” The young man paused, because deep down he knew the difference.

In today’s Gospel, the disciples return to Jesus full of excitement. Their mission has been successful. “Even the devils submit to us when we use your name,” they say. It is a moment of achievement, and their joy is understandable. Like the young musician, they are savoring the applause.

But Jesus gently redirects them. He does not deny their success; in fact, he affirms it. Yet he points them to something deeper: “Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you; rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” In other words, rejoice not so much in what you have done, but in who you are before God.

This is a subtle but crucial shift. Achievements come and go. Success can rise and fall. There are seasons in life when our work flourishes, and other times when it seems to fade or even fail. If our joy depends only on what we accomplish, then it will always be fragile.

Jesus invites us into a deeper joy—the joy of relationship. To have our “names written in heaven” means that we belong to God, that we are known and loved by Him, that we share in the very relationship between the Father and the Son. This is not something we earn; it is something we receive.

That is why Jesus himself bursts into prayer, filled with joy in the Holy Spirit. He praises the Father not for achievements, but for revelation—for making this mystery known to “mere children.” The childlike heart is open, receptive, and trusting. It knows how to receive love rather than try to control it.

The first reading from Job echoes this movement. After all his suffering and questioning, Job comes to a place of

humility: “I have heard of you... but now my eye has seen you.” It is no longer about explanations or achievements, but about encounter. And in that encounter, Job finds restoration and peace.

We are reminded today that the deepest blessing in life is not what we do for God, but what God has done—and continues to do—for us. Our works matter, but they flow from something greater: a relationship that endures even when our strength fades, even when our efforts fall short. There is another story of an elderly woman in a care home who could no longer do the many good works she once did. A visitor asked her if she felt useless. She smiled gently and said, “I used to do many things for God. Now I just sit with Him, and He seems content with that.” In that quiet truth, she had discovered the heart of the Gospel.

So today, we are invited to carry this simple but life-giving truth: *rejoice not in what we do, but in who holds us*. And in that joy, like children, we learn to see what the prophets longed to see—and to rest in the love that never passes away.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that as we place these gifts upon the altar, we may offer not only the work of our hands, but also humble and trusting hearts, so that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord our God,
receive these offerings we bring before you
with grateful and childlike hearts,
and teach us to seek not our own glory
but the joy that comes from belonging to you.
May this sacrifice deepen our communion with Christ,
who reveals your love to the humble and lowly.
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 loving wisdom
you reveal the mysteries of your Kingdom
not to the proud and self-sufficient,
but to humble hearts that trust in you.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ,
you teach us that the deepest joy of life
is not found in power or achievement,
but in knowing that we belong to you
and that our names are written in heaven.

Even in times of weakness and uncertainty,
you remain our peace and our strength,
calling us, like Job,
from questioning into encounter,
from fear into trust,
from striving into the quiet joy of your presence.

And so, with Angels and Saints,
with grateful hearts and childlike faith,
we proclaim your glory as we sing:
Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

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

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and free us from the temptation
to seek our worth only in success or achievement.
Graciously grant peace in our days,
that, rejoicing always in your faithful love,
we may live with humble and trusting hearts
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught your disciples to find their joy
not in power over others but in the assurance that they
belong to the Father. 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 merely to serve him,
but to belong to him forever.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, so often we measure our lives
by what we accomplish, by what others see or praise.
Yet today you remind us that the deepest truth is simpler
and greater: we are yours.

Teach us to rest in that love.

When we succeed, keep us humble.

When we fail, keep us trusting.

And when words and strength fade,
may we still find joy
in simply being with you.

For our names are written not in the dust of this world,
but in your eternal heart.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed by these sacred mysteries,
we thank you, Lord,
for reminding us that our true joy
is found not in passing achievements
but in your enduring love.
Grant that, strengthened by this heavenly food,
we may live with humble and trusting hearts
and remain always faithful to the grace
of being your beloved children.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord teach you to rejoice not only in what you do,
but in the love with which he holds you.
May he give you the humility of little children,
the peace of hearts that trust in him, and the joy of knowing
that your names are written in heaven.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, rejoicing not merely in your works, but in the faithful love of God who holds you always.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Achievements may fade, but the joy of belonging to God endures forever.”