

11 October, 2026 – 28th Sunday in Ord. Time (A Cycle)

Is 25:6–10a; Phil 4:12–14, 19–20; Mt 22:1–14 (or 22:1–10)

INTRODUCTION

There are moments in life when people begin to feel that the best days are already behind them. Age, illness, disappointments, failures, loneliness, or grief can quietly convince us that life only narrows and fades. Yet today's readings proclaim exactly the opposite: with God, the future is never empty. The mountain is not behind us; it still lies ahead.

The prophet Isaiah gives us a magnificent vision of God preparing a banquet for all peoples — a feast of joy, communion, and eternal life. Jesus continues the same image in the Gospel, comparing the Kingdom of Heaven to a wedding feast where all are invited. God's desire is not exclusion but celebration, not despair but communion.

Yet the Gospel also warns us that many become too distracted to respond to God's invitation. Careers, worries,

possessions, routines, and endless distractions can slowly occupy our hearts so completely that we forget the deeper purpose of life: communion with God and with one another.

Today the Lord once again gathers us at his table. But before we approach this Eucharistic feast, let us acknowledge the times we ignored his invitation, resisted his grace, or failed to wear the garment of love, mercy, and compassion.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you invite us to the banquet of your Kingdom, yet we often become too busy for you. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ Jesus, you welcome the poor, the wounded, and sinners to your table, yet we have failed to welcome others with compassion. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you clothed us with your life in Baptism, yet we have not always lived as your faithful disciples.

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who invites us to the wedding feast of his Son, forgive our sins, strengthen us with his mercy, clothe us anew with the garment of grace, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE GLORIA

Because God prepares for his people not a future of despair but a banquet of joy and life, let us now lift our voices in praise as we sing together:

COLLECT

O God, who never cease to invite your people to the wedding feast of your Kingdom,
fill our hearts with hope and gratitude,
that, strengthened by the presence of your Son,
we may not be distracted by passing things
but seek above all the joy of communion with you.
Teach us to wear each day the garment of love, mercy,

and faithfulness, as we journey toward the eternal banquet you have prepared for your children.

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.**

INVITATION TO THE CREDO

United in the faith that gives us hope and leads us toward the eternal banquet of God's Kingdom, let us now profess together what we believe.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (for personal Meditation only)

I believe in God the Father almighty,
who prepares for his children not a future of emptiness,
but the eternal banquet of life and joy.
He is the loving Father who waits for us at the end of our journey and wipes away every tear from our eyes.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He is the messenger of the Father's invitation,

calling all people to the wedding feast of the Kingdom —
the poor, the wounded, sinners, and all who long for
mercy.

By his Death and Resurrection

he conquered sin and destroyed death forever.

In the Eucharist he nourishes us with his own life
and strengthens us for our journey toward eternal
communion with God.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
who clothes us each day with the garment of grace
and teaches us to live in love, compassion, forgiveness,
and hope.

Through the Spirit we are gathered into one Church,
one family around the table of the Lord.

I believe that our true dignity
comes not from what we possess
but from belonging to Christ.

I believe that even in suffering and loss,
God remains faithful and continues to lead us.

I believe in the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting in the heavenly banquet
where God's joy will never end. Amen.

HOMILY:

A man once visited an elderly woman who had become too frail to come to church. As they spoke, she sighed and said, "Once you pass a certain age, you realize the mountain is behind you. Life only goes downhill now." Then she opened an old photo album and showed pictures from her fiftieth birthday celebration. Her eyes sparkled for a moment as she remembered the laughter, the dancing, the crowded tables, the joy of being surrounded by family and friends. But then the sparkle faded. "Now," she said quietly, "what is left for us to expect from life?"

That question touches something very deep in all of us.
Whether we are young or old, healthy or sick, successful or

struggling, there are moments when we wonder: *What is still ahead of me? Is there really something more?*

Today's readings answer with a resounding yes. According to the prophet Isaiah, the mountain is not behind us — it is still before us. On that mountain, God himself prepares a feast for all peoples: "a banquet of rich food and fine wines." It is not merely a meal. It is an image of fullness, joy, communion, and eternal life. God does not prepare a funeral for humanity. He prepares a wedding feast.

This image of the banquet runs through all the readings today. Psalm 23 speaks of the Lord preparing a table for us. Jesus in the Gospel compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a king giving a wedding banquet for his son. Again and again Scripture tells us: our final destiny is not emptiness, but communion; not isolation, but celebration; not despair, but joy.

When families gather to prepare a funeral Mass for a loved one, they often choose this reading from Isaiah because it speaks directly to grief. It tells us that death does not have

the last word. "He will destroy death forever. The Lord God will wipe away the tears from every face." What a tender image that is — God himself wiping away tears like a loving parent comforting a child.

And yet, many people live as though the invitation to God's feast does not matter. In Jesus' parable, the king sends invitations, but the guests are too busy. One goes to his farm. Another to his business. Others simply ignore the invitation altogether.

The tragedy is not that these people were evil. Their farms and businesses were not bad things. The tragedy is that lesser things became more important than the greatest thing. They became so occupied with making a living that they forgot how to live.

That is still our danger today.

We fill our calendars, chase success, manage finances, build careers, scroll endlessly through distractions, and sometimes forget the deeper invitation God is extending

every day: “Come to the feast. Come into communion with me. Come into joy.”

A priest once described an old custom from rural Germany. Before a wedding, a messenger called the “guest inviter” would ride from farm to farm personally inviting people to the celebration. Dressed in colorful ribbons and decorations, he would joyfully announce, “Everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast!”

That is exactly what Jesus is doing in the Gospel. He is God’s messenger, inviting humanity to the feast of divine life. And unlike earthly invitations, this one is not only for the respectable or the successful. When the first invited guests refuse, the king says: “Go out to the highways and byways. Invite everyone you find.”

The Kingdom is filled with unexpected people — sinners, tax collectors, the wounded, the forgotten, the poor in spirit, those who know their need for mercy. Sometimes those who appear closest to religion are the very ones who

refuse joy, while those standing at the margins enter the feast with gratitude and wonder.

We see this repeatedly in the Gospel. Jesus is always gathering around himself ordinary, broken people who are hungry for life.

Saint Paul in today’s second reading is one of them. He writes from prison, uncertain whether he will live or die. Yet his letter radiates freedom and joy. He says something astonishing: “I know what it is to have plenty, and I know what it is to be in need... I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

Paul had discovered something many never learn: life’s deepest security does not come from possessions, health, or circumstances. It comes from being rooted in Christ.

A woman once said that her favorite verse in Scripture was precisely this line of Saint Paul: “I can do all things in him who strengthens me.” She repeated it during times of struggle and suffering. It gave her courage because she

believed Christ was not merely a figure from the past, but a living presence accompanying her.

Paul had little by worldly standards when he wrote to the Philippians. He sat in a prison cell. Yet inwardly he was freer than many wealthy people. He could endure poverty without despair and abundance without becoming attached, because his heart belonged to Christ.

That freedom is desperately needed today. Our culture often teaches us that our worth depends on what we possess. “If you have something, then you are someone.” But Paul reminds us that our dignity comes not from what we own but from whom we belong to.

There is another beautiful detail in today’s Gospel. One guest arrives without the wedding garment. The wedding garment symbolizes a life transformed by grace. God invites everyone freely, but his invitation is meant to change us. We are called not only to attend the feast but to become people of love, mercy, compassion, and generosity.

In baptism, we were clothed with Christ. Every day we are asked to “wear” that garment anew — by forgiving, serving, encouraging, welcoming, and loving.

Joyful Christianity is never self-centred. Those who truly experience God’s hospitality begin to share it with others.

There is a striking story from the devastating floods in Europe some years ago. A reporter interviewed a man standing before his destroyed home. His business was gone. His possessions were gone. Practically everything had been washed away. Yet the man calmly said, “We have nothing left... but I am curious to see how God will lead us through this.”

That is faith. Not denial of suffering. Not pretending everything is easy. But confidence that even in loss, God remains faithful.

The Eucharist we celebrate today is already a foretaste of that heavenly banquet Isaiah describes. Here the Lord gathers us around his table. Here he feeds us not only with

bread and wine but with his own life. Here he strengthens the weary, comforts the grieving, forgives sinners, and reminds us that the story is not over.

Sometimes people say, “I can pray alone. I can watch Mass online.” Of course prayer matters everywhere. But there is something unique about personally encountering Christ in the Eucharist. Watching a banquet from a distance is not the same as sitting at the table.

An elderly dying man once received Holy Communion regularly at home. He suffered terribly, yet every time the Eucharist was brought to him, his face lit up with peace. Shortly before Christmas he told the priest, “This Christmas, Jesus will take me home.” He spoke not with fear, but with hope. The feast was already beginning for him.

And so today the Lord again sends out his invitation. Not only to the perfect, but to all of us — tired, distracted, wounded, searching people. The invitation still stands: “Everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”

Let me end with another story. A teacher once asked a group of children what they thought heaven would be like. One child answered, “I think heaven will be like coming home after a very long journey and discovering that someone has been waiting for you the whole time.”

That is exactly what today’s readings proclaim. At the end of all our wandering, struggles, fears, and tears, we will discover not an angry judge eager to condemn us, but a loving Father waiting to welcome us home to the feast that never ends.

And when that day comes, we will finally understand: the mountain was never behind us. The best was always still ahead. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that this sacrifice, through which the Lord gathers us around his table and strengthens us for the journey toward his heavenly banquet, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these gifts offered by your people,
and grant that, nourished by the Bread of Life and the Cup
of Salvation,
we may learn to seek not merely the things that pass away
but the lasting joy found in communion with you.
May this Eucharist transform our hearts
so that we may welcome others with the same mercy and
generosity with which you have welcomed us.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

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 great love
you have prepared for your people
the everlasting banquet of your Kingdom.
When humanity wandered far from you,
your Son Jesus Christ came among us

It

as the messenger of your invitation,
calling the weary, the poor, the wounded, and sinners
to the feast of reconciliation and peace.

In him you strengthen the weak,
comfort the sorrowful,
and give hope to all who trust in your mercy.
Through his Death and Resurrection
you destroyed death forever
and opened for us the way to eternal joy.

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 waits to
welcome his children home to the feast that never ends.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, sustained by your mercy,
we may never lose hope amid the trials and burdens of life,
but walk with confidence toward the joyful banquet of your
Kingdom, where every tear will be wiped away
and death will be no more,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you gather your people around one table
and call us into the communion of your 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,
who invites the weary, the wounded, and sinners
to the wedding feast of eternal life.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Today the Lord has allowed us not merely to hear about
the heavenly banquet, but already to taste it. In this
Eucharist, Christ himself has come to strengthen the weak,
comfort the grieving, and renew the hopeful. The world
often tells us that our worth depends on what we possess,
achieve, or control. But at this table we are reminded that
our deepest dignity comes from belonging to Christ.

The Eucharist is God's quiet assurance that the story is not
over. Even amid suffering, uncertainty, or loss, the Lord
continues to prepare a future filled with life and
communion. The best is still ahead, because God himself
waits for us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May your holy gifts, O Lord,
which we have received at this sacred banquet,
strengthen us with the joy and hope of your Kingdom.
Help us to live as people clothed in Christ,
sharing your mercy, generosity, and compassion with
others, until the day when you welcome us fully
to the eternal feast prepared for your people.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord,
who has invited you to the banquet of his Kingdom,
fill your hearts with lasting hope. **Amen.**

May he strengthen you in times of struggle,
free you from fear and discouragement,
and help you walk always in the joy of Christ. **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 lives, and never
forget that the Lord continues to say to you each day:
“Everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The mountain is not behind us.
For those who walk with Christ, the best is always still
ahead.

12 October, 2026 – Monday, 28th Week in Ord. Time

Gal 4,22-24. 26-27.31.5,1; Lk 11:29-32

“Something greater is already here—if only we have eyes to see.”

INTRODUCTION

A man once spent years saving for a trip to see one of the world's most famous artworks. When he finally stood before it, he glanced at it, took a quick photo, and moved on. Later he admitted, “I expected something more.” He had travelled far, yet missed the beauty before him.

There is something in us that longs for the extraordinary. We often expect God to appear in dramatic and unmistakable ways, and because of that, we can fail to notice the quiet ways he is already present.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks to people who keep asking for signs, while the greatest sign of all stands before them. God is already among them, speaking and acting in Jesus, yet many cannot recognize him.

As we gather around this altar, let us ask the Lord to open our eyes and hearts once again. Let us acknowledge the times we have overlooked his presence in our daily lives, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you come to us in quiet and hidden ways, yet we often fail to recognize you: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you are greater than every sign we seek, yet we search elsewhere for meaning and hope:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you remain present among us in your Word, your people, and the Eucharist, yet we grow careless through familiarity: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God open our eyes to recognize his presence among us, forgive us for the times we have overlooked his grace and ignored his invitation, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God, you sent your Son into the world
as the fullness of your wisdom and love;
grant that, freed by the grace of Christ,
we may recognize your presence in the ordinary moments
of life and welcome with faithful hearts
the salvation already placed before 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 teacher once placed a small, ordinary-looking stone on his desk and told his students it was a rare and priceless gem. Some students leaned in, examined it carefully, and began to notice its detail and beauty. Others laughed, dismissed it, and paid no attention. The difference was not in the stone—it was in how they looked at it.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is facing a crowd that is looking—but not really seeing. They are asking for a sign, something dramatic to prove who he is. Yet Jesus points them to the past: the people of Nineveh responded to Jonah, and the Queen of the South travelled far to hear Solomon's wisdom. "And there is something greater here," he says—yet they remain unmoved.

This is the tension at the heart of the Gospel: *something greater is already here—if only we have eyes to see*. The people around Jesus were waiting for God to act in spectacular ways, but God had chosen to come in simplicity—in a carpenter's son, in ordinary speech, in everyday encounters.

We can understand their struggle. We too are often drawn to the extraordinary. We may think that if God is truly present, it should be obvious, overwhelming, unmistakable. Yet the pattern of God's action, especially in Jesus, is different. God works quietly, gently, often through the ordinary fabric of daily life.

Jesus healed the sick, welcomed the outcast, shared meals, told simple stories about seeds and fields and families. Nothing outwardly spectacular—yet everything deeply revealing. For those with open hearts, these were signs greater than Jonah, greater than Solomon.

Saint Paul, in the first reading, reminds us that we are called into freedom in Christ. But this freedom is not about chasing after extraordinary signs; it is about recognizing and responding to the gift already given—the Son of God, present among us. Our freedom grows when we begin to see rightly.

There is also a quiet warning in today's Gospel. It is possible to be very close to Jesus and still miss him. His contemporaries heard his voice, saw his actions, and yet failed to grasp who he was. Familiarity can dull our awareness. We can become so used to the language of faith, the rituals, even the Eucharist, that we stop truly seeing.

And yet, the invitation remains open. We are in a privileged position—we see the full story of Jesus in the light of the resurrection. We know that the one standing before the crowd is not just a prophet or a wise teacher, but the Son of God. The question is not whether God is giving us signs, but whether we are willing to recognize them.

A woman once said that the moment her life changed was not during a grand miracle, but when she noticed a small act of kindness from a stranger at a time she needed it most. “It wasn’t dramatic,” she said, “but somehow I knew God was there.” Sometimes, the greatest signs are the ones we almost overlook—until we learn to see. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that these gifts we bring before the Lord,
and the openness of our hearts to recognize his presence
among us,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
accept the gifts we place upon your altar,
and teach us to recognize in these simple signs of bread
and wine
the saving presence of your Son.
May this sacrifice deepen our freedom in Christ
and open our eyes to your grace at work in our lives.
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 revealed not merely a sign among many,
but the fullness of your mercy and truth.
When humanity searched for wonders and greatness,
you chose to come among us in humility and simplicity.
In the words of Jesus,

in his compassion for the poor and forgotten,
in his healing presence and self-giving love,
you showed the world the face of your saving power.

Through his Death and Resurrection
our eyes have been opened
to recognize your presence in our midst,
and through the Eucharist
he remains with us still.

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

At the Savior's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and free us from the blindness that keeps us from
recognizing your presence among us.
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 Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you came among your people as the greatest sign of the
Father's love,
yet in humility and 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,
behold him who is already present among us,
quietly revealing the mercy and love of the Father.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, so often we ask for greater signs,
while failing to notice the grace already given.
In this Eucharist you have come to us again—
not with spectacle, but with the quiet gift of yourself.

Open our eyes to recognize you
in daily life,
in acts of kindness,
in your Word,
and in one another.
May we never become too familiar with your presence
that we cease to wonder.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord,
that this holy communion
may sharpen our spiritual vision,
so that we may recognize your Son present among us
and faithfully follow him in freedom and love.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Final Blessing

May the Lord open your eyes
to recognize his presence in the ordinary moments of life.
Amen.

May Christ, the greatest sign of the Father's love,
strengthen you to walk in freedom and faith.
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 recognizing his presence
in the people and moments you encounter each day.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The problem is often not that God is absent, but that we fail
to notice him.
“Something greater is already here”—in Christ, in the
Eucharist, in simple acts of love, and in the ordinary
moments of life. The prayer of faith is not only “Lord, show
me a sign,” but also “Lord, open my eyes to see.”

13 October, 2026 – Tuesday, 28th Week in Ord. Time

Gal 5:1–6; Lk 11:37–41

From polished surfaces to purified hearts.

INTRODUCTION

There is an old saying that “not everything that shines is gold.” We live in a world that often gives great importance to appearances: polished images, carefully managed impressions, and outward success. Yet beneath the surface, many hearts carry burdens, struggles, and hidden wounds. God, however, sees beyond appearances. He looks into the heart.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus challenges those who were more concerned with ritual purity than with inner conversion. He reminds us that external observance alone is not enough. A life pleasing to God must come from a heart shaped by love, mercy, and sincerity.

Saint Paul, too, reminds us that what truly matters is “faith working through love.” Faith is not merely something we display outwardly; it is something that transforms the way we think, speak, and treat others, especially the poor and

forgotten.

As we gather around this altar, let us allow the Lord to cleanse what is hidden within us, to purify our intentions, and to renew our hearts in his mercy. And so, acknowledging our sins, let us prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you look beyond appearances and search the depths of our hearts: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you call us to a faith that works through love and generosity: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you alone can cleanse and renew us from within: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God cleanse us from all selfishness and hypocrisy, purify our hearts by the power of his love, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
who teach us that faith finds its fullness in love,
look kindly upon your people
and cleanse our hearts from all that keeps us far from you,
so that, renewed inwardly by your grace,
we may serve you with sincerity
and love one another with generous hearts.
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 spent hours each week polishing his car. It gleamed brilliantly on the outside—no speck of dust, no scratch left unattended. Yet under the hood, the engine was neglected. Oil was never changed, small faults ignored. One day, in the middle of a journey, the car broke down completely. The shine on the outside could not compensate for the damage within.

In today's Gospel, Jesus encounters something similar at the table of the Pharisee. His host is surprised—even disturbed—that Jesus does not perform the expected ritual washing before eating. It was a visible, religious practice, a sign of fidelity to tradition. But Jesus uses that moment to point to a deeper issue: "You clean the outside... but inside you are full of greed and wickedness."

Jesus is not dismissing all external practices. Rather, he is challenging a misplaced priority. When attention to externals replaces concern for the heart, something essential is lost. Religion risks becoming performance rather than transformation. The cup may look clean, but what it contains tells another story.

For Jesus, the heart is everything. In the biblical sense, the heart is not just emotion—it is the centre of thought, decision, and desire. It is where we choose generosity or selfishness, truth or deceit, love or indifference. And Jesus is clear: what is within eventually shows itself in how we live.

That is why he points to almsgiving. “Give alms from what you have,” he says. Generosity is not just an action; it is a revelation of the heart. A heart turned toward others, especially those in need, is a heart being purified. It shows that love, not greed, is at the centre.

Saint Paul echoes this in the first reading: “What matters is faith working through love.” Not external marks, not ritual signs in themselves—but a living faith that expresses itself in love. Everything else is secondary. Faith must take flesh in how we treat others.

We can recognise ourselves here. It is easy to focus on what is visible—doing the right things, saying the right prayers, maintaining appearances. But the Gospel gently—and sometimes sharply—asks: what is happening within? Are our actions flowing from love, or are they masking something else?

The good news is that we are not left to purify ourselves alone. The Lord works within us. When we open our hearts to him, he begins that quiet transformation—reshaping our

desires, softening what is hard, cleansing what is hidden. Over time, the inside and the outside begin to align.

A teacher once gave her students two cups. One was beautifully decorated but dirty inside; the other was plain but clean. She asked them which they would rather drink from. The answer was obvious. Then she said, “Your life is like this. God is not fooled by decoration—he desires a clean heart.” It was a simple lesson, but one that stayed with them.

And that is the invitation before us today: to move from polished surfaces to purified hearts, allowing the Lord not just to improve our appearance, but to renew us from within.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts we offer may express not merely outward devotion, but hearts sincerely turned toward God, and may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord our God,
accept these offerings placed upon your altar,
and purify us inwardly by the mystery we celebrate,
so that our faith may become visible
through lives marked by charity, mercy, and truth.
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 do not look merely upon outward appearances,
but lovingly search the depths of the human heart.
Again and again you call your people
from empty observance to sincere conversion,
teaching us through your Son
that faith must reveal itself in love.
In Christ, you cleanse what is wounded within us,
renew what sin has distorted,
and form in us hearts capable of mercy and generosity.

Through him, your grace transforms us from within,
so that our lives may reflect the holiness you desire.
And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and
Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to pray for the grace of hearts made pure by love
as we say:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from the hypocrisy that hides within us
and from the selfishness that hardens the heart.
Graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us that what matters before the Father is a heart purified by love and mercy:
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 not only to forgive our sins
but to renew and cleanse our hearts from within.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you know the hidden places of our hearts better than we know them ourselves.
You see our struggles, our mixed motives, and the ways we try to appear better than we are.
Yet you do not turn away from us. Instead, you call us gently toward deeper conversion.

May this Eucharist continue your work within us.

Cleanse what is selfish, soften what is hardened, and strengthen what is good.

Teach us to live not for appearances, but for love.

May our faith become visible in kindness, generosity, and compassion toward others.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these holy mysteries, O Lord,
bring about in us the healing and renewal of heart
that your Son proclaimed in the Gospel,
so that, purified by your grace,
we may bear witness through lives of sincere faith and active charity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord who sees the depths of your heart
cleanse you from all that separates you from him
and fill you with sincere and generous love. **Amen.**

May Christ teach you to live a faith
that is seen not merely in outward actions
but in mercy, compassion, and truth. **Amen.**

And may the Holy Spirit renew you from within,
so that your lives may reflect the goodness of God each
day. **Amen.**

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord not only by outward words
and actions, but by hearts renewed in love.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

God is not impressed by polished appearances alone. He
desires hearts transformed by love. The true measure of
faith is not how we appear before others, but how deeply
we allow Christ to purify us from within and shape our lives
through generosity, mercy, and truth.

14 October, 2026 – Wed., 28th Week in Ord. Time

Gal 5:18–25; Lk 11:42–46

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a young violin student who dreaded her
weekly lessons. Her teacher was strict, her exercises
repetitive, and every mistake was corrected sharply. Over
time, the music she once loved began to feel like a heavy
obligation. One day, however, a new teacher took over.
Instead of beginning with scales, he asked her to play a
simple melody she enjoyed. He guided her patiently,
correcting her, yes—but always encouraging her. Slowly,
what once felt like a burden became a joy again.

In a similar way, faith too can sometimes feel heavy.
Rules, expectations, and even our own efforts to “get
everything right” can weigh on us. We may begin with
enthusiasm, but along the way, something shifts, and what
should give life starts to feel like pressure.

The Gospel today invites us to rediscover the true heart of our relationship with God. It reminds us that God does not intend faith to crush us, but to free us and bring us to fullness of life.

As we gather, we might ask ourselves honestly: has my faith become life-giving, or has it turned into something heavy and wearisome? Bringing these moments before the Lord, let us acknowledge our sins and ask for his mercy and healing.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you came not to burden us but to lead us into the freedom of love: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you call us to bear one another's burdens with compassion and patience: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you fill our hearts with the fruits of the Spirit and make us fully alive in you: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the merciful Lord free us from every burden of sin, heal what weighs heavily upon our hearts, and lead us into the joyful freedom of life in the Spirit, and may almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God, who desire your people
to walk not in fear and burden
but in the freedom of your Spirit,
teach us to live with hearts formed by love,
so that, bearing one another's burdens with compassion,
we may reflect the gentleness and mercy of Christ.
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 BURDENS IMPOSED TO LIFE GIVEN IN LOVE.”

A man once carried a large backpack everywhere he went. It was filled with things he thought he might need—old tools, extra clothes, books he never read. Over time, the weight bent his posture and slowed his steps. One day, a friend asked him why he carried so much. “Because I might need it,” he replied. Gently, the friend helped him empty the bag, keeping only what was necessary. For the first time in years, the man walked freely.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus confronts those who were doing the opposite—adding weight instead of removing it. He speaks sharply to the lawyers, accusing them of loading people with burdens too heavy to bear, without lifting a finger to help. The Law, which was meant to guide people toward life with God, had become a source of oppression.

This is a striking contrast to who Jesus is and what he offers. Elsewhere, he calls out, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Jesus

does not deny that life has its demands, nor that discipleship requires commitment. But his demands are not crushing; they are the demands of love—demands that ultimately free rather than enslave.

St Paul, in the first reading, speaks of this freedom in terms of the Spirit. “If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” He is not rejecting the Law itself, but pointing to something deeper: a life guided not by external pressure but by an inner transformation. The fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience—are not burdens; they are signs of a life fully alive.

Yet the temptation remains, even today, to turn faith into a system of weight. We can impose expectations on others—or on ourselves—that God himself does not impose. We can become more focused on appearances, recognition, or control, like those who sought places of honour, rather than on genuine love and service.

Jesus redirects our attention. True honour, he says, is not about being seen or praised, but about giving glory to God.

When our lives point beyond ourselves—when our actions reflect God’s goodness rather than our own importance—we begin to live in the freedom Jesus desires for us.

This also changes how we relate to others. Instead of adding to their burdens through judgment or indifference, we are called to help carry them. A word of kindness, a listening ear, a small act of compassion—these can lift more weight than we realise. To live the Gospel is to become, like Christ, a source of rest for others.

In the end, we are faced with a simple but challenging question: does my way of living faith bring life—to myself and to others—or does it add unnecessary weight?

There is another story of a woman who volunteered at a shelter. At first, she felt overwhelmed by the needs around her. But instead of trying to fix everything, she began simply—one conversation, one meal, one moment of presence at a time. Over time, she realised something surprising: she was no longer carrying the burden alone.

The joy she saw in others began to lighten her own heart. What once felt heavy became a source of life.

That is the way of Christ—from burdens imposed to life given in love.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that this sacrifice, through which Christ lifts the burdens of our hearts and fills us with the life of the Spirit, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, accept these gifts we bring before you, and by the power of this sacrifice free us from all that weighs us down in selfishness and pride. May this offering strengthen us to serve one another with love, patience, and compassion, so that our lives may become signs of your mercy in the world. 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 you do not desire your children
to live under crushing burdens,
but to walk in the freedom and joy of the Holy Spirit.
In your Son, you revealed a love
that lifts the weary, strengthens the weak,
and teaches us to carry one another with compassion.

Through his life and teaching,
Christ showed us that true greatness
is found not in honour or appearance,
but in humble service and generous love.
And through the Spirit poured into our hearts,
you continue to bear in us
the fruits of peace, patience, kindness, and joy.

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

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say the prayer of the children of God, asking
the Father to free us from every burden that keeps us from
living in the joy and freedom of his love:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from the burdens of pride, judgment, and fear
that weigh upon our hearts.
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 never placed crushing burdens upon those who came
to you,
but offered rest to the weary and hope to the discouraged.
Free us from the habits of judgment, pride, and
indifference
that disturb our hearts and divide your people.
Teach us to walk in the freedom of your Spirit,
so that, bearing one another's burdens with love,
we may become instruments of your peace.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world
and lightens the burdens of all who come to him in faith.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,
you do not burden us with demands that crush,
but invite us into the freedom of love.
In this Eucharist, you have nourished us with your own life.
Teach us now to become a source of rest for others—
gentle in judgment, generous in compassion,
and joyful in serving.
May the fruits of your Spirit grow within us each day,
so that what we carry in life
may always be shaped by love.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having been nourished by these holy mysteries,
we pray, O Lord, that through the grace of this Sacrament
you may lighten the burdens of our hearts
and strengthen us to walk in the freedom of the Spirit.
May our lives bear the fruits of love, joy, and peace
for the good of all whom we meet.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord free your hearts from every burden that keeps you from his peace. Amen.

May he fill you with the fruits of the Holy Spirit, so that your lives may bring encouragement and hope 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 helping to lighten the burdens of one another through love and compassion.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Faith becomes heavy when it is driven only by pressure, appearances, or fear.

But when it is guided by the Spirit and rooted in love, it becomes life-giving—for ourselves and for others.

15 October, 2026 – Thursday, 28th Week in Ord. Time

(St Teresa of Jesus – Memorial)

Eph 1,1-10; Lk 11,47-54

INTRODUCTION

A traveller once arrived late at a monastery and knocked for shelter. The porter opened the door, handed him a key, and quietly said, “You already have what you need.” Only after some hesitation did the traveller realise that the key fit the very door before him. What remained was simply the courage to enter.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus speaks about the “key of knowledge.” Those entrusted with it were meant to open the way to God, yet instead they became obstacles. The tragedy was not ignorance, but closed hearts that no longer listened, learned, or entered more deeply into God’s presence.

Saint Teresa of Jesus teaches us another way. Through prayer and humility, she discovered that the Christian life is not about possessing all the answers, but about opening the door of the heart again and again to Christ, who desires friendship with us.

As we come before the Lord today, let us ask ourselves honestly: have we allowed Christ to enter more deeply into our lives, or have pride, indifference, or fear kept certain doors closed? Acknowledging our sins, let us prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you stand at the door of our hearts and patiently wait for us to welcome you:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you are the true key who opens for us the way to the Father: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you call us to become doors of faith and hope for others: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us for the times we have closed our hearts to his grace, resisted his invitation to grow, or discouraged others by our lack of faith and love. May he open us anew to the friendship of Christ and lead us ever more deeply into his life, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God, who through Saint Teresa of Jesus opened the way to deeper friendship with your Son through prayer, humility, and trust, grant that we may never close our hearts to your grace, but continue each day to enter more fully into the mystery of Christ, so that our lives may become a doorway of faith for 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 young teacher once noticed that one of her brightest students had stopped participating in class. When she asked him why, he replied quietly, “I thought I already knew everything... and then I stopped listening.” What once was a gift—his knowledge—had become an obstacle. Only when he admitted he still had much to learn did he begin to grow again.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus directs strong words toward the lawyers, the experts in the Law. They had knowledge, influence, and authority. They held what Jesus calls the “key of knowledge.” Yet instead of opening doors towards God, they closed them. “You have not gone in yourselves,” Jesus says, “and you have prevented others from going in.”

This is not simply a criticism of a group long ago; it is a warning that echoes across every age. Knowledge—even religious knowledge—can either open us to God or close

us off. It becomes dangerous when it leads to pride, when we think we have already “arrived,” when we stop listening, stop seeking, stop entering more deeply into the mystery of God.

Saint Paul, in the letter to the Ephesians, lifts our eyes to something much greater: God’s plan “to bring everything together under Christ as head.” It is a vast, beautiful vision—everything united in Christ. But that great plan begins in very personal ways: whether Christ is truly the centre, the “head,” of my own life.

That is where the red thread of today’s message comes in: *opening the door to Christ*. Before we can help others enter, we must go in ourselves. Before we can share the key, we must use it.

Saint Teresa of Jesus is a luminous guide here. Despite her brilliance and deep spiritual insight, she always approached God as a learner, as a friend seeking a Friend. She famously said that prayer is “nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends.” That requires humility—the willingness to be taught, to be led, to be surprised by

God.

Jesus praises that kind of openness elsewhere when he speaks of becoming like “infants”—not childish, but childlike: receptive, trusting, eager to learn. The tragedy of the lawyers in the Gospel is not that they knew too little, but that they were too sure of themselves to receive what God was doing in Jesus.

We, too, influence others—more than we realise. If we are closed, hesitant, or indifferent, we can unintentionally discourage others from seeking Christ. But if we are open, searching, and sincerely trying to grow, we quietly become doors through which others may pass.

So the question is simple, but not easy: am I opening doors, or closing them? Am I still entering, still learning, still allowing Christ to be Lord of my life?

A man once visited a great cathedral and was struck by its beauty. But what stayed with him most was not the architecture—it was an elderly woman quietly praying in a corner. When he later spoke to her, she said, “I don’t understand everything about God... but I keep showing up,

and somehow, He keeps opening the door.” And that, perhaps, is the heart of it: not having all the answers, but being willing to enter—again and again—into the presence of Christ, who is always ready to receive us.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that as we place these gifts upon the altar, we may also place before the Lord every closed and hidden part of our hearts, asking him to open us more fully to his presence and to make us instruments who lead others toward Christ, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May these offerings, O Lord,
be pleasing in your sight,
and through the example of Saint Teresa
teach us to seek you with sincere and humble hearts.
As bread and wine are transformed by your power,
may we too be renewed inwardly

and opened more fully to the life of 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,
through Christ our Lord.

For you never cease to call your people
into deeper communion with yourself.

Through your Son, you open before us
the door of mercy, truth, and eternal life,
inviting us not merely to know about you,
but to enter into friendship with you.

In Saint Teresa of Jesus
you gave the Church a shining example
of prayerful openness and humble trust.
By her words and witness, many were led to discover
that the heart becomes restless and empty

when closed to your grace,
but finds peace and joy when Christ is welcomed within.

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

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray with the confidence of children who know that
the Father never closes the door to those who seek him
sincerely.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from the pride and self-sufficiency
that close our hearts to your grace.
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 never cease to invite us
into deeper friendship with you.
Look not on the times
we have resisted your grace
or failed to open the way for others,
but look 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 stands at the door and knocks.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you continue to open before us the door of your
presence.
You do not ask that we understand everything,
only that we keep returning to you with trusting hearts.
May this Eucharist deepen within us
the friendship that Saint Teresa cherished so deeply,
so that Christ may truly become
the centre and Lord of our lives.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord our God,
that nourished by these holy mysteries,
we may learn, after the example of Saint Teresa,
to seek you above all things
and to remain always open
to the transforming presence of Christ.
May our lives become signs of hope and welcome

for all who are searching for you.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord open your hearts more fully to his presence,
teach you to walk humbly in his ways,
and make you faithful witnesses
who lead others toward Christ.

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

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, opening the door of your heart to Christ
each day, and becoming for others a path that leads
toward him.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Faith grows not when we think we already possess the
key, but when we keep opening the door to Christ.”

Invitation to the Prayer over the Offerings - this should end
as "may be acceptable to God the almighty Father."

16 October, 2026 – Friday, 28th Week in Ord. Time

Eph 1:11–14; Lk 12:1–7

INTRODUCTION

There is a story told of a child who once asked his
grandmother, “Does God really see me?” The grandmother
smiled, held an old photograph in her hands, and said,
“When I look at this, I remember your laughter, your tears,
and your first steps. I see you.” Then she added softly,
“God sees you even more than that.”

Many people quietly carry that same question in their
hearts. In a world where people often feel unnoticed or
valued only by appearances, we wonder whether God truly
knows the details of our lives, our hidden fears, and our
silent struggles.

Saint Teresa of Jesus reminds us that God walks with us even in the ordinary moments of daily life. Nothing is too small for His loving attention. The Lord who counts even the hairs of our head knows us completely and loves us faithfully.

As we gather to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us stand honestly before God, asking pardon for the times we have hidden behind appearances, failed to trust in His care, or lived without integrity of heart. Let us now call to mind our sins.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us to live truthfully before the Father and not behind masks: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you remind us that we are known and loved in every detail: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you free us from fear and teach us to trust in your loving care: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who sees our hearts with mercy and

calls us to walk in truth and trust, forgive us our sins, bring healing to our hidden wounds, and lead us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God,
who know your children more deeply
than they know themselves
and never cease to watch over them with love,
grant that we may live before you
with sincere hearts, fearless trust, and steadfast integrity,
so that, freed from all hypocrisy and fear,
we may walk faithfully in the light of your truth.
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 worked in a large office where everything was monitored—emails, meetings, performance. He was

always careful about what others could see. But one day, during a system failure, he realized that the only work that truly mattered was what he did when no one was watching. It changed him. He began to work not for appearances, but with integrity.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks directly to that hidden space within us. He warns against hypocrisy—the gap between what is outside and what is inside. He reminds us that what is concealed will be revealed. Not as a threat meant to frighten us, but as a call to wholeness: to become the same person in public and in private, because we always live in the sight of God.

This is where Jesus introduces the question of fear. “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body,” he says. Human fears often dominate us—fear of judgment, rejection, loss. These fears can push us to wear masks, to compromise truth, to live divided lives. But Jesus redirects us: the only “fear” that matters is a reverent awe before God—a recognition of His ultimate importance in our lives.

Yet immediately, Jesus balances this call with something even more powerful: trust. “Not one sparrow is forgotten in God's sight... even the hairs of your head have all been counted.” This is not the language of a distant judge, but of a loving Father deeply attentive to every detail of our lives.

Here lies the heart of the Gospel: the God who sees everything is the God who loves intimately. His gaze is not that of an accuser waiting for failure, but of one who treasures us. If even the smallest bird is remembered, then none of our struggles, fears, or hidden wounds are overlooked.

Saint Teresa of Jesus lived this truth profoundly. In her prayer, she spoke to God as to a close friend, sharing not only great spiritual insights but also her daily frustrations and joys. She trusted that nothing in her life was too small for God's attention. That trust gave her remarkable freedom—the freedom to be real, to be honest, to be fully herself before God.

And this is the invitation for us today. If we truly believe that we are known in every detail, then we no longer need to hide. We can live with integrity, because our worth does not depend on human approval. We can live with courage, because our lives rest in God's hands. And we can live with trust, because we are never forgotten.

There is another story of a woman who, after years of feeling insignificant, began each morning with a simple prayer: "Lord, you see me." Over time, something shifted. She found herself less anxious about what others thought and more attentive to how she lived. She said later, "It wasn't that my life became bigger—it's that I realized it was already seen, already held."

That is the quiet transformation the Gospel offers us. To know that we are seen, known, and loved in every detail—and therefore to live not in fear, but in truth and trust before God.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that, trusting in the loving gaze of God who knows us completely, our sacrifice and our lives may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these gifts we place before you
as signs of our desire to live sincerely in your presence.
Purify our hearts from all deceit and fear,
and teach us to entrust ourselves completely
to your loving and faithful care.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For you know each of your children by name
and watch over every moment of our lives with unfailing
love. You see beyond appearances

and call us to walk before you with honest hearts and steadfast trust.

In your Son, Jesus Christ,
you revealed that even the sparrows are not forgotten in your sight
and that every human life is precious to you.
Through him you free us from fear,
strengthen us in truth,
and teach us to live with confidence in your providence.

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

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

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

With confidence in the Father who knows our needs before we ask and who never forgets His children, let us pray in the words our Saviour gave us.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from the fears that divide our hearts
and keep us from living in truth.

Graciously grant peace in our days,
that, trusting always in your loving care,
we may live with courage and integrity
as your faithful children,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught your disciples not to live in fear

but to trust in the loving care of 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 knows us completely and loves us without measure.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you see us completely—our strengths, our fears, our
hidden wounds—and still you remain close to us. In this
Eucharist, you remind us that we are never forgotten.
Teach us to live honestly before you, free from fear and
secure in your love. May the quiet certainty of being known
by you give us courage, peace, and trust each day.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these sacred mysteries,

we thank you, Lord, for the assurance that we are always
held in your loving care.
Grant that, strengthened by this sacrament,
we may live with integrity of heart,
freedom from fear, and deeper trust in your providence.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord, who knows you in every detail and loves you
without measure, strengthen you in truth, free you from
fear, and keep you always in His peace.

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

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, living honestly before God and trusting
always in His loving care.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The God who sees everything is not waiting to condemn us but longing to hold us in love. Because we are fully known by Him, we no longer need to live in fear or behind masks, but can walk each day in truth, courage, and trust.

17 October, 2026 – Saturday, 28th Week in Ord. Time

(St Ignatius of Antioch – Memorial)

Eph 1:15–23; Lk 12:8–12

A faith that is personal, but never private

INTRODUCTION

A young teacher once told of a moment in her classroom when a student asked her, quite directly, “Miss, do you believe in God?” She hesitated. She knew that answering honestly might invite questions, even criticism. For a few seconds, the room felt very small. Then she simply said, “Yes, I do.” Later she admitted that the hardest part was not the question itself, but overcoming her own fear.

Many of us understand that hesitation. Faith often feels safer when it remains private, quietly carried within us but

rarely spoken aloud. We may fear misunderstanding, rejection, or simply standing out from others.

Yet today’s Gospel reminds us that faith is never meant to remain hidden. Jesus calls us to acknowledge him before others, trusting that the Holy Spirit will give us courage and wisdom when the moment comes. St Ignatius of Antioch witnessed to that truth with remarkable courage, remaining faithful even on the road to martyrdom.

As we gather before the Lord, let us recognise the times when fear, hesitation, or silence have kept us from witnessing to Christ. With humble hearts, let us ask God for mercy and for the courage to live our faith openly and faithfully.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us out of fear and invite us to witness to you with courage: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you send the Holy Spirit to guide us when we do not know what to say: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you acknowledge before the Father those who remain faithful to you: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God strengthen us when we are fearful, forgive us for the times we have hidden our faith, and fill us with the courage of the Holy Spirit, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God,
who strengthened Saint Ignatius of Antioch
to bear courageous witness to Christ even unto death,
grant that your people, guided by the Holy Spirit,
may acknowledge your Son openly in word and deed
and remain steadfast in faith amid the pressures of this
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 man once shared how he kept a small cross in his pocket during his workday. In meetings and conversations, he would sometimes hold it quietly, drawing strength from it—but he never spoke about his faith. One day, a colleague going through a crisis said to him, “You seem grounded... is there something that helps you?” In that moment, he realised that his silent faith, though sincere, had not yet become a witness. That day, he spoke—and it changed both of them.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus speaks directly into that tension we all feel. He knows how difficult it can be to acknowledge him publicly. He speaks of being brought before

authorities, of facing opposition, of standing in situations where faith is not welcomed. His words are realistic; he does not pretend that discipleship is easy.

Yet, he is also deeply encouraging. “Everyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will acknowledge before the angels of God.” There is a profound reciprocity here. Our willingness to stand with Christ now is met by his promise to stand with us eternally. What we risk in time is gathered into eternity.

But Jesus goes further. He does not simply command courage; he promises help. “The Holy Spirit will teach you what you must say.” This is crucial. Witnessing to faith is not about having perfect words or clever arguments. It is about availability—allowing the Spirit to speak through us in moments we cannot fully prepare for.

St Ignatius of Antioch lived this Gospel with striking clarity. On his journey to Rome, knowing he would face martyrdom, he did not retreat into silence. Instead, he wrote letters full of conviction, urging others to remain firm

in Christ. For Ignatius, faith was intensely personal—but never private. His life became a public testimony, even when it led him to suffering.

We may not face martyrdom, but we do face quieter forms of pressure—the subtle expectation to keep faith out of conversation, to blend in, to avoid standing out. It is easy to become, as the Gospel suggests, invisible disciples. Yet Jesus calls us precisely out of that invisibility.

Our faith is indeed personal. It shapes our conscience, our relationships, our choices. But if Christ truly lives in us, as St Paul says, then that life will naturally become visible. Not in a loud or aggressive way, but in a steady, authentic witness—through our words, our decisions, our compassion, and sometimes through a simple, honest answer.

The key is trust. When the moment comes, we are not alone. The same Spirit who strengthened the apostles, who sustained Ignatius in his trials, is given to us. Often,

the right word comes not before the moment, but within it.
Courage grows not in theory, but in practice.

So perhaps the question for us today is simple: where am I being invited to acknowledge Christ more openly? It may not be dramatic. It may be a conversation, a decision, a quiet but clear stand. These small acts of witness are the places where faith moves from private comfort to living truth.

A woman once said that the turning point in her faith came not from a sermon, but from a friend who simply said, when asked about her strength, “I trust God.” It was not said loudly, not said to impress—just said honestly. That simple witness stayed with her and eventually led her back to faith. Sometimes, acknowledging Christ is as simple—and as powerful—as that.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice, offered with trusting hearts and a faith willing to witness to Christ before others, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these gifts we place upon your altar
and, through this sacred offering,
strengthen us with the grace of the Holy Spirit,
so that our faith may be lived not only within our hearts
but also through courageous words and faithful actions.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

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

For you never leave your people alone in their weakness,
but through the gift of the Holy Spirit
you strengthen all who place their trust in you.
In every age you raise up witnesses to the Gospel,
men and women whose quiet courage
reveals the living presence of Christ in the world.

In Saint Ignatius of Antioch
you gave the Church a faithful shepherd and fearless
martyr,
who proclaimed with his life
that faith in your Son can never remain hidden.
Even in suffering and uncertainty,
he trusted in your promise
and became a sign of hope and steadfast love.

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 not to be afraid to acknowledge him
before others, for we are never abandoned by the Father.
With confidence in that love, we now pray in the words our
Saviour gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant
peace in our days, that, strengthened by the courage of the
Holy Spirit, we may never be ashamed to witness to your
Son, but live faithfully and confidently in his truth as we
await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour,
Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you strengthened your disciples in times of fear
and promised them the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
Look not on our hesitation and weakness,
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 strengthens all who trust in him
and calls us to bear witness to his love before the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Faith often grows quietly within the heart, but Christ never
intends it to remain hidden there. Nourished now by his
Body and Blood, we are sent into the world as witnesses—
not through grand gestures alone, but through honesty,
compassion, courage, and trust. The Holy Spirit who
strengthened the apostles and the martyrs also
strengthens us. Even a simple word spoken in faith can
become a doorway through which another person
encounters God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the heavenly gift we have received, O Lord,
strengthen our hearts in faith
and make us courageous witnesses to your Son,
so that, guided by the Holy Spirit,
we may proclaim Christ not only with our lips

but also through the witness of our daily lives.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord strengthen you with the courage of the Holy Spirit, so that you may acknowledge Christ with confidence and joy in your daily lives. **Amen.**

May he free you from fear and hesitation,
and make your words and actions a faithful witness to his love. **Amen.**

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by the courage and witness of your lives.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Faith becomes truly alive when it moves from silent belief to visible witness. Often, the most powerful testimony is not dramatic, but simple and sincere: a word of hope, an honest answer, a compassionate action, or a quiet stand for what is right. The Holy Spirit does not ask us to be fearless before we speak—only willing to trust God in the moment.