

25 October, 2026 – 30th Sunday in Ord. Time (A Cycle)

Ex 22:20–26; 1 Thess 1:5c–10; Mt 22:34–40

INTRODUCTION

A traveller once asked an old monk, “What is the most important thing in life?” The monk did not answer immediately. Instead, he took the traveller to a well, drew up a bucket of water, and offered him a drink. The thirsty traveller drank deeply. Then the monk smiled and said, “When you were thirsty, nothing mattered more than water. When the soul is thirsty, nothing matters more than love.” Today Jesus tells us what matters most: to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. Everything in the Christian life begins there. Faith is not first about rules or rituals, but about a relationship with the God who has loved us first. When we truly know we are loved by God, our hearts begin to change. Prayer becomes more alive, kindness becomes more natural, forgiveness becomes more possible, and even ordinary acts become signs of grace. Love is the “first button” that brings everything else into place.

But we also know that we do not always love as Christ asks us to love. We fail to love God wholeheartedly, we fail to love others generously, and sometimes we even fail to accept God’s love for ourselves. Therefore, with humble hearts, let us acknowledge our sins and ask the Lord for mercy and healing.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You loved us before we ever learned to love You: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You teach us that the greatest commandment is love: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You call us to love our neighbour with compassion and generosity: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God,
who loved us first and sent His Son to reveal the fullness of love, forgive us our sins, heal our wounded hearts,
and lead us into the joy of everlasting life. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE GLORIA

Because God's love shines upon us in Christ
and calls us to live as His beloved children,
let us now lift our voices in praise and sing:

COLLECT

O God, whose love is the source and fulfilment of every
commandment,
pour into our hearts the grace to remain close to You,
so that, strengthened by Your mercy,
we may love You above all things
and love our brothers and sisters 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 teacher once asked her students to write down the most
important rule for a happy life. One child wrote: "Always tell
the truth." Another wrote: "Work hard." A third wrote: "Be
kind." But one little boy simply wrote: "Love first." When the

teacher asked him what he meant, he replied, "If you love
first, the other things become easier."

That child, without realizing it, had understood the heart of
today's Gospel.

The Pharisees ask Jesus a very serious question:
"Teacher, which commandment in the Law is the
greatest?" Jesus answers with words every Jew already
knew by heart: "You shall love the Lord your God with all
your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Then
he adds another: "You shall love your neighbour as
yourself." And then Jesus says something astonishing: "On
these two commandments hang all the Law and the
Prophets."

Everything hangs on love.

One priest once compared this to buttoning a shirt. As a
little boy, he often buttoned his shirt wrongly in the morning
rush. If the first button went into the wrong hole, every
other button followed incorrectly. The shirt felt twisted and

uncomfortable. His mother would always remind him: “Pay attention to the first button. If the first one is right, the others will fall into place.”

That is exactly what Jesus is saying today. Love is the “first button” of the Christian life. When love is right, everything else slowly finds its proper place.

Without love, religion becomes a burden. Prayer becomes routine. Worship becomes obligation. Morality becomes cold law. But when love is present, faith becomes alive.

We see this even in ordinary human life. The same priest spoke about his brother who was terribly untidy as a child. Nothing worked: punishment, advice, rewards, even military discipline. But then one day everything changed. He fell deeply in love. Suddenly his room was spotless whenever his girlfriend visited! Love transformed what years of rules and pressure could not.

Love changes us.

The saints knew this well. St. Augustine once said: “Love, and do what you will.” He did not mean that anything is allowed. He meant that when the heart truly loves God, our choices begin to flow in the right direction.

But here we may ask an honest question: How can Jesus command love? Can love really be ordered?

A mother cannot force her child to love her. A husband cannot demand affection from his wife. Love cannot simply be switched on like a light.

That is why Saint John gives us the key: “We love because He first loved us.” Christianity does not begin with our love for God. It begins with God’s love for us.

Many people think holiness means trying harder. But the Gospel tells us something deeper: holiness begins by allowing ourselves to be loved by God.

There was once a young girl who had stopped going to church. Her mother was worried and asked a priest to

speak with her. Later the girl attended a youth retreat where she experienced the love of Christ in a profound way. From then on, she began attending Mass almost every day. Before, Sunday worship had seemed boring and meaningless. Now it became a meeting with Someone she loved.

The difference was not obligation. The difference was encounter.

A similar thing happened during a First Communion class. The priest encouraged the children to pray every day: “Jesus, I love you.” One little boy became upset and said with tears in his eyes: “I can’t say that. I don’t really know Jesus. How can I love Him?”

The priest wisely replied: “Then pray this instead every night for one week: ‘Jesus, thank you for loving me.’”

Three days later, the boy came running excitedly to the priest’s house and said: “Now I can love Jesus too!”

That is the secret of the spiritual life. The more we discover that we are loved by God, the more love begins to grow within us.

One ancient Christian reflection says that the human heart is like a dry sponge. You can squeeze a dry sponge as hard as you want, but no water comes out. But place it into water, let it soak deeply, and then water flows effortlessly. In the same way, a heart dried up by fear, anger, selfishness, or disappointment cannot produce love on its own. It must first be immersed in the love of God.

And perhaps that is the real crisis of our world today. We are surrounded by achievement, technology, and information, but many hearts are starving for love. People are connected digitally, yet lonely spiritually. Families live under one roof but hardly speak. Nations become richer, yet societies become colder.

Into such a world Jesus speaks the oldest and newest commandment: “Love God. Love your neighbour.”

The first reading reminds us that this love is not sentimental. It becomes concrete in the way we treat the vulnerable: the stranger, the widow, the orphan, the poor. Love of God cannot be separated from compassion for people.

And Jesus adds another challenging phrase: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Sometimes we forget the last part. Many people are unable to love others because deep inside they despise themselves. They carry wounds, regrets, guilt, or shame. But God does not look at us with contempt. He looks at us with mercy.

A man once visited an old monastery seeking advice. He told the monk, “I have failed many times in life. I don’t think God could love someone like me.” The old monk silently handed him a cracked clay cup and poured tea into it. The man looked puzzled. The monk smiled and said, “See? Even cracked cups can still hold tea. And cracked hearts can still hold grace.”

That is the good news of the Gospel.

God does not wait for us to become perfect before loving us. He loves us first. And that love slowly transforms us.

So today Jesus asks each of us only one thing: Start with the first button. Let yourself be loved by God. Spend time with Him. Speak to Him honestly. Remain close to Him in prayer, in Scripture, in the Eucharist. And from that love, let kindness flow into your family, your workplace, your parish, and even toward difficult people.

A final story: During a blackout in a small village, an elderly woman lit a candle and placed it at her window. Soon neighbours began lighting their own candles from hers. One flame became many. The darkness outside did not disappear instantly, but the village slowly began to glow.

That is what Christian love is meant to be. We do not create the light. We receive it from Christ. Then we pass it on.

“Love the Lord your God... and love your neighbour as yourself.” Everything hangs on this. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE CREDO

United in the love of God
and trusting in the faith handed down to us by the Church,
let us now profess our faith together.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (for personal meditation only)

I believe in God, the Father of love,
who created every human heart
to live in communion with Him.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His Son, our Lord,
who revealed that the greatest commandment
is to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind,
and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

By His life, death, and resurrection,
He showed us that we are loved first by God
and called to become light for others.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
who pours the love of God into our hearts,
heals what is wounded within us,

and strengthens us to forgive, to serve, and to love
generously.

I believe in the Church,
called to be a living sign of God's compassion in the world;
in the communion of saints,
who teach us by their lives that holiness begins with love;
in the forgiveness of sins,
which restores us whenever we fail to love;
in the resurrection of the body,
and in everlasting life,
where love will be complete in God forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Gathered in the love of Christ
and desiring to live the greatest commandment more
faithfully,
let us place our gifts before the Lord and pray
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
accept these gifts which we place before You
as signs of our gratitude and love.
May this offering deepen our communion with You
and teach us to reflect Your compassion
in all our relationships with others.
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 infinite love
You created us in Your image
and never ceased to call us back to Yourself.
When our hearts wandered far from You,
You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ,
to reveal the fullness of Your mercy

and to teach us that the greatest commandment
is to love You with all our heart
and to love one another as You have loved us.

Through Him,
You heal wounded hearts,
strengthen the weak,
and fill Your people with the fire of divine charity.
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

Because we are children deeply loved by God
and called to share that love with one another,
we dare to pray in the words Jesus Himself taught us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from the selfishness, resentment, and fear
that prevent us from loving as Christ has loved us.
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 love of God and neighbour
is the heart of the Gospel.
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 loved us first
and gives Himself to us as the Bread of Life.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
Your love reaches into the broken and hidden places of our
hearts.
You remind us that even cracked hearts can still hold
grace.
Remain with us now,
so that the love we receive at this altar
may become light for others in a world often darkened by
loneliness and fear.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord,
transform us more fully into the likeness of Christ,
so that, nourished by His Body and Blood,
we may persevere in love of You
and in generous service to our brothers and sisters.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord fill your hearts with His love,
teach you to recognise His presence each day,
and make you signs of His compassion in the world.
And may Almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by loving Him above all
things and serving one another with generous hearts.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Love is the first button of the Christian life.
When we remain rooted in God’s love,
everything else slowly falls into place.”

26 October, 2026 – Mon., 30th Week in Ord. Time

Eph 4:32–5:8; Lk 13:10–17

From being bent over to standing upright in God’s liberating gaze

INTRODUCTION

There is a story told of a young apprentice in a workshop who spent most of his day looking down—filing, polishing, fixing tiny parts. One day his master stopped him and said, “You will ruin your craft if you never lift your head. You must learn not only to see what is in your hands, but also what stands before you.” The apprentice realized that in always looking down, he had been missing the bigger picture of his work.

In a similar way, we can go through life bent over—not only physically, but inwardly—absorbed by worries, routines, or even our own certainties. We focus on what is immediate and pressing, and we fail to notice what God is quietly doing around us and within us.

The Scriptures today invite us to lift our gaze. They reveal a God who notices us even when we do not notice Him, a God who calls us even before we think to call upon Him, a God who desires to raise us up into fullness of life.

As we prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries, we recognize the times we have remained bent over—by sin, by indifference, by blindness to God’s presence. Let us ask the Lord for mercy, that we may stand upright before Him with open and responsive hearts.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You see us in our weakness and call us into Your healing presence: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You touch what is bent within us and raise us into the freedom of God’s children: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You lead us to walk as children of the light and to rejoice in Your grace: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us the times we have remained bent beneath sin, fear, and hardness of heart, raise us into the freedom and joy of His light, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God,
who never cease to look with compassion upon Your people
and who raise up those weighed down by sin and sorrow,
grant that we may welcome the healing touch of Your Son
and live always as children of the light,
ready to glorify You with upright and grateful 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 woman once spent years caring for others in her family—children, aging parents, endless responsibilities. Gradually, she found herself worn down, not only in body but in spirit. One evening, a friend simply said to her, “Come, sit with me.” In that quiet moment of being seen and invited, something shifted within her. It was the beginning of her healing—not dramatic, but real. Sometimes, what lifts us up begins with being noticed.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus notices a woman who had been bent over for eighteen years. She does not approach Him. She does not cry out. It is Jesus who sees her, calls her over, and reaches out to her. Before she ever speaks, she is already seen and already loved.

This is the first movement of grace: God sees us before we see Him. So often, we imagine that everything depends on our initiative—our prayer, our effort, our searching. Yet the Gospel reveals a different truth: God is always the first to

act. He looks upon us in our weakness, our burdens, our hidden struggles, and He calls us by name.

The woman responds. She comes forward. She allows Jesus to touch her. And immediately she stands upright. Her response is simple and profound—she glorifies God. When we allow the Lord to touch what is bent within us, praise becomes the natural language of the heart.

But the Gospel also presents a stark contrast. The synagogue official does not see what Jesus sees. He is indignant. He is so focused on rules and proper order that he misses the miracle unfolding before him. While the woman stands upright in freedom, he remains inwardly bent—trapped in rigidity and unable to rejoice.

This contrast runs through every generation. The same action of God can lead one person to praise and another to resistance. Much depends on the posture of the heart. A heart aware of its need is open to God’s work; a heart too certain of itself can become blind to grace.

Saint Paul, in the first reading, urges us to live as children of the light, guided by the Spirit rather than by our own narrow instincts. To live in the light is to develop the art of noticing—to recognize where God is at work, often in unexpected ways, beyond our expectations and categories.

We all know what it is to feel bent over at times—by anxiety, disappointment, guilt, or fatigue. The Gospel assures us that there is no moment when the Lord is unwilling to act. There is no “wrong day” for grace. Even in places and times we least expect, Christ continues His work of lifting, healing, and restoring.

There is another quiet story of a man who, after years of hardship, began volunteering at a shelter. One evening, as he helped serve a meal, he noticed someone smile at him with genuine gratitude. Later he said, “That was the moment I felt myself stand up again inside.” Sometimes, the Lord straightens us not all at once, but through small encounters of grace that awaken us to His presence.

The Eucharist we celebrate now is such a moment. Here, the Lord sees us, calls us, and reaches out to us. If we allow Him, He will gently straighten what is bent within us, so that, like the woman in the Gospel, we too may stand upright and glorify God with our lives.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that this sacrifice, through which the Lord lifts us from weakness into the freedom of His grace, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, receive these gifts we bring before You
and through this holy offering
heal what is wounded within us,
strengthen what has grown weary,
and raise our hearts to live always in the light 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.

For in Your mercy You never cease to seek Your people.
You look with love upon those burdened by weakness and
sin, and through Your Son You call them into freedom and
life. In Christ, the bent are raised up,
the weary are restored, and those trapped in darkness are
led into the light of grace.

Through Him You teach us to recognize Your presence
in quiet acts of healing, mercy, and compassion,
so that, standing upright before You with grateful hearts,
we may glorify Your holy name.

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

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

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Gathered around the Lord who sees us in our weakness,
heals what is bent within us, and raises us into the freedom
of His children, let us pray with confidence to the Father in
the words Jesus Himself taught us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and free us from all that keeps our hearts bent down by
fear, sin, and discouragement.

Graciously grant peace in our days,
that, uplifted by the help of Your mercy,
we may stand firm in hope and live always as children of
the light, as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
You looked with compassion upon the suffering woman
and called her into freedom and peace.
Look upon Your Church today
and heal whatever keeps us divided, fearful, or hardened
of heart.
Grant us the peace that comes from trusting in Your loving
presence,
and make us instruments of Your healing in the world.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who sees us in our weakness, calls us to
Himself, and raises us into the freedom of God's children.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Lord has once again looked upon us with love.
In this Eucharist, Christ has drawn near to what is fragile
and burdened within us.
He does not leave us bent beneath fear or weariness, but
gently raises us into His light.
May we leave this celebration standing upright in faith,
ready to glorify God through lives of gratitude, compassion,
and hope.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through this holy sacrament
You have nourished us with the Body and Blood of Your
Son.
May this Eucharist continue within us the work of Your
healing grace, lifting our hearts from all that burdens us
and teaching us to walk always as children of the light.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord who sees you in your weakness strengthen and restore you. **Amen.**

May Christ gently raise up whatever is bent within your heart and fill you with His peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit help you to walk always as children of the light and witnesses of God's mercy. **Amen.**

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by lives that stand upright in His grace.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Grace often begins quietly: the Lord notices us, calls us, and gently lifts what has been bent within us. A heart open to His touch will always find new reason to stand upright and glorify God.

27 October, 2026 – Tuesday, 30th Week in Ord. Time

Eph 5:21–33; Lk 13:18–21

“God’s kingdom grows quietly from the small seeds we entrust to Him.”

INTRODUCTION

A teacher once handed each student a tiny, almost invisible seed and asked them to care for it. Many dismissed it because it seemed too small to matter. Yet one student patiently watered it day after day, and over time it became a flourishing plant that brought life to the whole classroom. What seemed insignificant carried within it a hidden promise of growth.

We live in a world that values quick success, visible achievements, and dramatic results. We can easily become discouraged when our efforts seem small or unnoticed. Quiet faithfulness often appears unimportant in the eyes of the world.

Yet today's Scriptures remind us that God's kingdom grows differently. Like the mustard seed and the yeast, God works silently and patiently through what is small, hidden, and ordinary. His grace transforms hearts little by little, often beyond what we can immediately see.

As we begin this Eucharist, let us acknowledge the times we have doubted the power of God's quiet work within us and around us. Let us ask the Lord to forgive us for our impatience, our lack of trust, and our failure to sow seeds of goodness with faith and hope.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You plant the seed of Your kingdom in humble and faithful hearts: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You quietly transform our lives through the hidden power of Your grace: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You call us to trust that no act of love is ever wasted: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God, who patiently nurtures the smallest seeds of goodness within us, forgive our sins, strengthen our faith, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God,
who reveal the power of your kingdom
through humble beginnings and hidden growth,
teach us to trust the quiet work of your grace
and to persevere faithfully
in every small act of love and service.

May our lives become fruitful in your sight
and bear witness to the transforming power of your Spirit.

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 his backyard. For a long time, nothing seemed to happen. His neighbours laughed, saying he had wasted his effort. But he kept tending the soil. Years later, that tree grew large enough to give shade to the whole neighbourhood, and birds began to nest in its branches. What once seemed pointless became a place of life and shelter.

Jesus speaks in today's Gospel of such hidden beginnings—the mustard seed and the yeast. Both are small, almost unnoticed, yet both carry within them a power far beyond their size. The seed becomes a tree; the yeast transforms the dough. This, Jesus says, is what the kingdom of God is like.

Saint Paul, in the first reading, reminds us that we are “not saved yet” in fullness. We carry the first fruits of the Spirit, but something greater is still unfolding. There is a quiet, ongoing work of God within us—a work that is not yet complete. We are, in a very real sense, still growing.

This can be both comforting and challenging. It is comforting because it means God is not finished with us. Even when we feel small, weak, or unproductive, His grace is still at work. But it is also challenging because it calls us to trust a process we cannot fully see or control.

We often want immediate results. We want our efforts to show clear and quick success. Yet the kingdom of God does not usually come in dramatic displays. It grows silently—through daily faithfulness, small acts of kindness, quiet perseverance, and unseen sacrifices.

A kind word spoken at the right moment, a small act of forgiveness, a hidden prayer offered in faith—these may seem insignificant. But in God's hands, they become like seeds and yeast. They carry a power that extends far beyond what we can measure.

Jesus Himself lived this way. He did not build His kingdom through spectacle but through ordinary encounters—touching the sick, speaking to the forgotten, sharing meals

with sinners. These small, personal moments became the seeds of a kingdom that continues to grow even today.

We are invited to do the same: to sow seeds of goodness in the ordinary moments of our lives, to trust that God is at work even when we cannot see the results, and to believe that nothing done in love is ever wasted.

A woman once began leaving small portions of food outside her home for anyone in need. She never met most of the people who received them. Years later, someone told her that those small offerings had helped many through difficult times. She had simply done what she could, not knowing how far it would reach. Like the mustard seed and the yeast, her small act had become part of something much greater.

And so, we continue our journey of faith, trusting that God's kingdom is growing—quietly, patiently—through every small act we place in His hands.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, like seeds placed into God's hands, may become a source of grace and life for the growth of His kingdom, and that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord,
receive these offerings we place before you
with humble and trusting hearts.

As the mustard seed grows into a tree
and the yeast transforms the dough,
may your grace work powerfully within us
through this Eucharistic sacrifice,
so that our lives may bear lasting fruit
for the coming 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 in your wisdom and love
you reveal the greatness of your power
through what is humble and small.

You plant the seed of your kingdom
in the ordinary moments of human life,
and by the hidden working of your grace
you bring forth a harvest beyond all expectation.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ,
you taught us to trust in the quiet growth of faith,
in acts of mercy unseen by the world,
and in love that transforms hearts little by little.
In him, the small seeds of goodness
become signs of your kingdom already among us.

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 confidence to the Father who patiently
brings His kingdom to growth within us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant
peace in our days, that, trusting in the quiet power of your
grace, we may persevere faithfully in sowing seeds of love,
mercy, and hope until your kingdom reaches its fullness.
Through the help of your mercy, keep us 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 your kingdom grows through humble love and patient trust.

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 quietly transforms our hearts
and nourishes the growth of God's kingdom within us.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The kingdom of God often grows in silence.
Like seeds beneath the soil,
God's grace continues its hidden work within us.
The Eucharist we have received today
strengthens every small act of love, every quiet sacrifice,

and every faithful step of our journey.
Nothing entrusted to God is ever lost.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this heavenly Sacrament, O Lord,
strengthen us in faithful perseverance,
so that, nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may continue to sow seeds of goodness,
trusting that you will bring them to fullness
in your kingdom.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and teach you to trust
the quiet work of His grace within your lives. **Amen.** May
He strengthen you to persevere faithfully
in every small act of love and goodness. **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 trusting in the quiet growth of His kingdom through your daily acts of faith and love.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

God's kingdom rarely grows through what is dramatic or impressive. It grows quietly through small acts done with love, faith, and perseverance. Never underestimate what God can do with the little you place in His hands.

28 October, 2026 – Wed., 30th Week in Ord. Time

(Sts Simon & Jude, Apostles – Feast)

Eph 2:19–22; Lk 6:12–16

Chosen in prayer, sent in love

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a craftsman who was asked how he chose the right stones for building a cathedral. He replied, “I do not begin with the stones; I begin with silence. Only when I have listened long enough do I know which stone belongs where.” To others, the stones looked ordinary, even interchangeable. But to him, each had a place within a greater design.

In today's feast, we see something similar in the way Jesus chooses his apostles. Before selecting the Twelve, he spends the whole night in prayer. Out of that deep communion with the Father, he calls each by name—Simon the Zealot, Jude the son of James, and the others—ordinary people, yet chosen for an extraordinary purpose. What is striking is that these men were not perfect, nor fully formed. One would betray him; others would falter. Yet

Jesus still chose them, not because they were flawless, but because they were part of God's plan. His choices flowed not from human calculation, but from prayerful trust in the Father.

We too have been chosen and called, though often we feel as unremarkable as those stones. As we gather now, we bring before the Lord our failures to live that calling fully. Let us ask forgiveness for the times we have resisted his purpose, and open our hearts again to be shaped by his grace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you spent the night in prayer before calling your apostles and teaching them the way of love:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you choose ordinary people and make them living stones in your holy Church: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you send us into the world as faithful lights for those searching for hope and truth: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the merciful Lord forgive our failure to listen to his voice in prayer, pardon the times our zeal lacked love, and strengthen us to live faithfully as living stones in his Church; and may almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
who built your Church upon the foundation of the Apostles
Simon and Jude,
grant that through their intercession
we may remain faithful to the calling we have received,
so that our lives, rooted in prayer and shaped by love,
may become a light that leads others to you. Through our
Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

HOMILY

There is a quiet story told of a village where a teacher kept a small lamp burning every night in the window of his home. When asked why, he said, “It is a sign that anyone who is lost can still find a way.” Over time, people began to rely on that light—not because it was bright, but because it was faithful.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus calls the Twelve to be such lights in the world. But before he calls them, he prays. He spends the whole night in communion with the Father. This detail matters. It tells us that the mission of the apostles is not born out of strategy or efficiency, but out of relationship—with God first.

Among those chosen are Simon the Zealot and Jude. We know very little about them, and perhaps that is the point. The Kingdom of God is often built not on the famous or the prominent, but on the faithful. Simon, once zealous for the Law, learns to channel that zeal into love for Christ. Jude,

often overshadowed by another Judas, remains a quiet but steady witness.

Their lives remind us that zeal itself is not enough. Zeal can be destructive when it is driven by ego or fear. But when it is rooted in Christ, it becomes creative and life-giving. The zeal of the apostles becomes a zeal for compassion, for truth, for reaching out beyond boundaries.

Saint Paul, in the first reading, speaks of the Church as a building, “built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.” Simon and Jude are part of that foundation. Hidden though they may be, they hold up something far greater than themselves.

This is also our calling. We may not be apostles in the same way, but we are living stones in that same spiritual house. Each of us has a place, a role, a calling that emerges not from our own plans but from God’s loving design. And like Jesus, we discover that calling most clearly in prayer.

Prayer does not guarantee that everything will go smoothly. Even after a night of prayer, Jesus chose Judas, who would betray him. Yet prayer ensures that even our broken paths can be gathered into God's purpose. It keeps us aligned with the One who can bring good out of every situation.

"In a world that often confuses noise with purpose, today's feast calls us back to the quiet **search** for God."

It invites us to be people whose actions flow from prayer, whose zeal is shaped by love, and whose lives, however hidden, become part of something enduring.

There is another story of a traveller who, lost in the dark, noticed small lights flickering on a distant hillside. As he drew closer, he realized they were lamps in ordinary homes. None of them seemed significant on their own, but together they outlined a path that led him safely to the village. So it is with the apostles, and so it is with us—small lights, chosen in prayer, sent in love, helping others find their way home.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice, offered with hearts rooted in prayer and love, may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive the prayers and offerings of your people
as we celebrate the feast of Saints Simon and Jude.
May this sacrifice deepen our communion with you,
so that our zeal may be purified by love
and our lives become steadfast signs of hope 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 called the Apostles not because of their greatness,
but because in your wisdom and love
you desired to make them living foundations of your
Church. After spending the night in prayer,
your Son chose Simon and Jude
and sent them forth as faithful witnesses of the Gospel.

Through their hidden yet steadfast lives,
you reveal that your Kingdom grows
through hearts formed in prayer and service.
Their zeal, purified by the love of Christ,
became a light for those searching for the way home,
and through their witness
your Church continues to shine in every age.

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 Savior's command and formed by the divine
teaching of the One who calls us in prayer and sends us in
love, we dare to say:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and free us from the noise and fear
that keep us from listening to your voice.
Graciously grant peace in our days, that, sustained by your
mercy, we may become faithful lights for others and
steadfast living stones in your Church, as we await the
blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you called your apostles after a night of
prayer and sent them forth to bring your peace to the
world. 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 ordinary people to share in his saving work and makes them living stones in his Kingdom. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The apostles were not chosen because they were extraordinary, but because they were willing to remain close to Christ. Prayer shaped their hearts, and love gave direction to their zeal. In this Eucharist, the Lord draws near to us in the same way. He strengthens the small light within us so that, together, we may help others find their way home. Hidden though our lives may seem, in God's hands they become part of something lasting and holy.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this sacrament, O Lord, we humbly implore you, that through the intercession of the Apostles Simon and Jude you may strengthen us in prayer, keep us faithful in love, and make our lives enduring signs of your presence in the world. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord who called the Apostles Simon and Jude strengthen you to seek his will in prayer and to serve him with hearts filled with love. **Amen.** May Christ, the cornerstone of the Church, make you steadfast living stones in his holy people and faithful lights for those who seek the way. **Amen.** And may almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by lives rooted in prayer, shaped by love, and faithful in service.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Small lights faithfully kept burning can guide others through the darkness. When our lives flow from prayer and are shaped by love, God uses even our hidden faithfulness to help others find their way home.

29 October, 2026 – Thursday, 30th Week in Ord. Time

Phil 1:1–11; Lk 13:31–35

*“Today and tomorrow and the next day, I must go on—
under His wings.”*

INTRODUCTION

A traveller once became lost in a dense forest as night began to fall. In fear and confusion, he tried many paths, but none led him out. Finally, he stopped, listened carefully, and heard the faint sound of running water. Trusting that quiet sound, he followed it slowly until it led him safely out of the darkness.

Our lives can often feel like that forest. We face uncertainty, fear, and choices that leave us restless. Many voices compete for our attention, yet God continues to call us gently toward the path that leads to life.

Today’s Gospel reminds us that Jesus himself walked a difficult road with courage and fidelity. He continued toward Jerusalem, not because the way was easy, but because he

trusted the Father completely. At the same time, he longed to gather his people under his protecting wings.

As we begin this Eucharist, let us ask ourselves where we have resisted God’s call, refused his protection, or turned away from the path he invites us to follow. With humble hearts, let us seek his mercy in the penitential act.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you gather us beneath the shelter of your compassionate wings: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you remain faithful even when the road leads through suffering and rejection: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you strengthen us to continue walking in faith today and tomorrow and the next day: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who never ceases to call us back beneath the shelter of his love, forgive us our sins, strengthen us when we grow weary or afraid, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God, who gave your Son the courage to walk faithfully
the path set before him
and the tenderness to gather your people beneath his
protecting wings,
grant us the grace to trust you in times of fear,
to persevere in faith amid trials,
and to remain steadfast in the way of 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

A young nurse once shared how, during her training, she was assigned to a difficult ward where many patients were terminally ill. She admitted that every instinct in her told her to request a transfer. It was emotionally draining, uncomfortable, and at times overwhelming. Yet something within her urged her to stay. Years later, she would say that it was in that ward she discovered not only her

vocation, but also a depth of compassion she never knew she had. “I wanted to run,” she said, “but something told me—I must keep going.”

In today’s Gospel, Jesus faces a similar moment. He is warned that Herod wants to kill him. It would have been reasonable—prudent even—to change direction, to take a safer road. Yet Jesus responds with striking clarity: *“Today and tomorrow and the next day, I must go on.”* He knows that his path leads to Jerusalem, the very place of rejection and suffering, yet he does not turn aside.

There is something deeply human and deeply divine in this determination. Jesus is not driven by stubbornness, but by fidelity—to his Father’s will and to his mission of love. Even when the road is hard, even when danger looms, he continues forward.

At the same time, we hear his tender lament over Jerusalem: *“How often have I longed to gather your children... as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing.”* Here is not just determination, but

longing. Not just resolve, but love that aches when it is refused.

This image of the hen gathering her chicks is striking. It is gentle, protective, almost vulnerable. Jesus reveals a heart that desires closeness, intimacy, relationship. He does not force; he invites. He does not coerce; he longs. Yet that longing can be met with resistance.

And that is where we often find ourselves. We know, at least in part, what God is asking of us—to forgive, to persevere, to let go, to step forward. Yet we hesitate. We look for easier paths. We resist being gathered, because trust is costly.

Saint Paul, in the first reading, reminds us that we cannot walk this path on our own strength. We need what he calls the “armour of God”—truth, faith, prayer, the word of God. Especially prayer. It is in prayer that we receive the strength to say, like Jesus, *“I must go on.”*

Without that strength, we either give in to fear—the “foxes” of our world—or we grow weary and stop moving

altogether. But with God’s strength, something shifts. The path may not become easier, but we become steadier.

To “go on” as Jesus did is not simply to endure; it is to remain rooted in love. It is to trust that even when we face rejection or difficulty, nothing can separate us from the love of God. It is to allow ourselves to be gathered under His wings, even as we continue walking the road before us.

There is a story of a farmer who, after a fire had swept through his land, found the charred remains of a hen in the ashes. As he gently moved it aside, he discovered live chicks beneath her wings. In her final moments, she had gathered them and shielded them from the flames. The mother had perished, but her young lived because they stayed under her protection.

That image brings today’s Gospel to life. Christ continues to gather us, even at great cost to himself. The question is not whether he longs for us—but whether we are willing to come under his wings, and then, strengthened by that love, to keep going—today and tomorrow and the next day.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that, trusting in the Lord who gathers us beneath his wings
and strengthens us to persevere in faith,
our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the Father
almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, accept these gifts we place upon your altar,
and through this sacred offering
strengthen us to walk faithfully the path of your Son,
so that, sheltered by your mercy and sustained by your
grace, we may persevere in love and hope.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

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

For in your mercy you sent your Son among us
to walk the road of human weakness and fear,
yet he did not turn away from suffering or rejection.
Faithful to your will, he continued steadfastly toward the
fulfilment of his mission,
revealing the strength of perfect love.

In him we also see your tender compassion,
for like a mother gathering her children beneath her wings,
he draws us close to himself, protects us in times of trial,
and strengthens us to persevere in faith.

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,
we dare to pray to the Father who gathers us beneath the
shelter of his love:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, strengthened by your mercy and sheltered beneath
your protecting wings,
we may persevere faithfully through every trial and fear,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you remained faithful to the Father's will even in the face of
rejection and suffering,
and you continue to gather your people in the peace of
your love:
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 gathers us beneath the shelter of his mercy and
strengthens us for the journey of faith.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,
you do not abandon us when the road becomes difficult.
You continue to call us close,
to shelter us beneath your wings,
and to strengthen us with your presence.

Teach us to trust you more deeply.
When fear tempts us to turn back,
give us courage to keep going.
When we grow weary, renew us with your grace.
And may we always remain close to the heart that longs to
gather us in love.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having been nourished by these sacred mysteries,
we pray, O Lord,
that, strengthened by the Body and Blood of your Son,
we may persevere faithfully on the path you set before us
and remain always under the shelter of your loving care.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and strengthen you
to continue faithfully on the path to which he calls you.
Amen.

May he shelter you beneath the wings of his mercy
and protect you in every trial and fear. **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 trusting in his love
and persevering faithfully today and tomorrow and the next
day.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Christ does not promise an easy road, but he never leaves
us to walk it alone. Beneath the shelter of his wings, we
receive the strength to keep going—today and tomorrow
and the next day.

30 October, 2026 – Friday, 30th Week in Ord. Time

Phil 1:12–18a; Lk 14:1–6

Seeing with the heart of Christ

There is a story of a teacher who once noticed a student sitting quietly at the back of the classroom, always attentive but never participating. One day, instead of calling on the most eager hands, the teacher gently invited that quiet student to speak. Hesitant at first, the student eventually shared something thoughtful and profound. After class, the teacher said, “I’ve been watching you—not to test you, but because I knew there was something beautiful waiting to be heard.”

We all know what it feels like to be watched. Sometimes that gaze encourages us, like the teacher’s attentive care. But at other times, it can feel like scrutiny—eyes waiting for us to slip, to fail, to fall short. The same act of “watching” can come either from love or from judgment.

In today’s Gospel, we encounter people who were also “watching closely.” But their watching was not like the

teacher’s. It was not to understand or to support—it was to trap. And yet, in the midst of that tense and watchful atmosphere, Jesus sees differently. He looks not for faults, but for need; not for failure, but for opportunity to love.

As we gather here, we might ask ourselves: how do we see others? With suspicion, comparison, indifference—or with compassion? Acknowledging the times when our vision has not been shaped by Christ’s heart, we now turn to the Lord and ask for mercy and healing.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you saw the suffering and forgotten with compassion and restored their dignity:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you taught us that love is greater than cold observance and fear: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you call us to see others with your merciful heart and to respond with courage: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God open our eyes to the needs of our brothers and sisters, heal the hardness of our hearts, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose beloved Son looked upon the suffering with compassion
and revealed that true holiness is found in merciful love,
teach us to see others with the heart of Christ,
that we may respond generously to those in need
and become witnesses of your healing presence 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 man once collapsed on a busy street, clearly in distress. People gathered, but many simply stood at a distance—watching. Some took out their phones, others whispered among themselves, unsure what to do. Then one passerby stepped forward, knelt beside the man, and called for help. While others observed, this person responded. The difference was not in what they saw, but in how they saw. In today's Gospel, many were watching Jesus closely. But their watching was not born of compassion—it was driven by suspicion. The presence of the man with dropsy was no accident; he had been placed there, almost like a test case, a trap. For the religious leaders, he was not a person in need, but a means to an end.

Jesus, however, sees differently. Where others see a legal dilemma, he sees a suffering human being. Where others see a trap, he sees a call to love. And without hesitation, he reaches out, heals the man, and restores his dignity. In that simple yet profound act, Jesus reveals the heart of God—a God who does not pause love for the sake of

rules.

This contrast is striking. The religious leaders knew the law, but they failed to see the person. Jesus fulfills the law precisely by seeing the person. True religion, he shows us, is not about rigid observance detached from life, but about love that restores life.

Saint Paul, in the first reading, offers another example of this same heart. Even while in chains, uncertain of his future, he does not turn inward. Instead, he rejoices that Christ is being proclaimed. His concern is not his own suffering, but the spread of the Gospel. Like Jesus, Paul's life is turned outward—toward others.

Both Jesus and Paul challenge us to move beyond self-protection and narrow vision. It is easy to become cautious, to guard ourselves, to measure everything by rules or personal comfort. But the Gospel calls us to something more—to see as Christ sees, and to act as Christ acts, even when it costs us.

We might recognize ourselves at times among those watching from a distance. We see the needs around us—

someone struggling, someone excluded, someone silently suffering—but we hesitate. We wait. We analyse.

Meanwhile, the opportunity to love passes by.

Yet the Lord invites us into a different way of seeing. He invites us to notice with compassion, to respond with courage, to value people over procedures. The Sabbath, after all, was meant for life—and so is every moment we are given.

A nurse once shared how, during an especially busy shift, she noticed an elderly patient who had no visitors. Though overwhelmed with tasks, she took a few minutes to sit beside him, hold his hand, and listen. Later, the patient said, “That was the first time today I felt like a person, not just a case.” In a world that often watches without seeing, that simple act became a moment of healing.

May we learn to see with the heart of Christ—to look beyond appearances, beyond rules, beyond ourselves—and to recognize in each person an opportunity to love.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that, learning to see others with the compassionate heart
of Christ, our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the
Father almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, accept the gifts we bring before you,
and through this holy offering
teach us to place mercy before judgment
and love before self-interest,
so that our lives may reflect the compassion of 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 Son Jesus Christ
you revealed the tenderness of your heart.
He looked upon the suffering not with indifference but with

compassion,
and showed that true greatness is found
in love that restores and heals.

When others saw only rules and limitations,
he saw persons longing for dignity and life.
By his words and actions
he taught us to recognize every human being
as worthy of care, attention, and mercy.

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 to the Father, that we may learn to see and love
with the compassionate heart of Christ:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from the blindness that keeps us distant from
the suffering of others.

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 looked upon the weak and suffering with compassion
and brought healing and peace wherever you went.
Teach us to see one another with your merciful heart,
that divisions may be healed and charity may flourish
among us,
who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who sees our deepest needs and heals us with his mercy.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,
you did not remain distant from human suffering,
but drew near with compassion and healing.
Open our eyes to recognize those who feel forgotten,
excluded, or unseen.
May this Eucharist teach us to look upon others not as
burdens or interruptions,
but as brothers and sisters loved by you.
Help us to see with your heart and to love with your
courage.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son,
we may become more attentive to the needs of others
and more faithful in works of mercy,
so that the compassion of Christ
may shine forth through our lives.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you with eyes that recognize the
suffering of others,
with hearts moved by compassion,
and with courage to respond in love.
And may Almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
glorifying the Lord by seeing and serving Christ in those
around you.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The difference between merely watching and truly seeing
is compassion.

To see with the heart of Christ is to recognize every person
not as a problem, but as an opportunity to love.

31 October, 2026 – Saturday, 30th Week in Ord. Time

Phil 1:18b–26; Lk 14: 1, 7–11

“The way up is the way down.”

INTRODUCTION

A young professional once attended a prestigious awards night. As guests entered the grand hall, there was a quiet scramble—subtle but unmistakable—as people tried to position themselves near the front tables, close to the stage, where they might be seen. One man, however, lingered at the back, greeting staff, helping an elderly guest find her seat, and eventually taking a place far from the spotlight. When the awards began, it turned out he was the main recipient of the evening. To everyone’s surprise, his name was called, and he had to walk from the very back to the front, receiving not only the award but a standing ovation that felt genuine and earned.

That scene captures something deeply human: our desire to be noticed, affirmed, and honoured. Whether in obvious or subtle ways, we often look for recognition—from our workplaces, our families, even within our communities of

faith. It is not always wrong, but it can quietly shape how we act and how we see others.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus notices a similar dynamic at a banquet. Guests are carefully choosing places of honour, trying to secure recognition in the eyes of others. Into that ordinary moment, Jesus speaks a truth that turns expectations upside down.

As we gather now, we might ask ourselves: how often do we seek the “better seat,” not just at tables, but in life? How often do we act for recognition rather than love? With humble hearts, let us acknowledge our need for God’s mercy and turn to Him in the penitential act.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You chose the way of humility and service rather than earthly honour. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You teach us that the one who humbles himself will be exalted. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You see the hidden acts of love that the world often overlooks. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us for the times we have sought our own glory rather than His will, for the moments we desired recognition more than loving service, and for the ways we have failed to walk the humble path of Christ; forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God,
teach us the humble wisdom of Your Son,
who emptied Himself and took the form of a servant,
so that, seeking not earthly honour but faithful love,
we may be raised up by Your grace
to share in the glory of Your Kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

HOMILY

There is a story told of a small village where a visiting dignitary was expected. The townspeople prepared a grand reception, arranging the best seats at the front for the most important figures. Amid the excitement, an elderly woman quietly swept the dusty floor of the hall, making sure everything was clean. When the dignitary arrived, he bypassed the front row and went straight to her, thanking her for her unseen work and inviting her to sit beside him. In that moment, honour found the one who was not seeking it.

In today's Gospel, Jesus observes guests choosing places of honour at a meal. It is such an ordinary scene, yet Jesus uses it to reveal something profound about the human heart. The desire to elevate ourselves, to be seen and recognised, runs deep. In the culture of His time, honour meant everything. But instead of affirming that system, Jesus gently dismantles it.

He tells a parable: do not take the highest place, lest you be asked to move down in embarrassment. Rather, take the lowest place, so that you may be invited higher. At first glance, this might sound like practical advice in social etiquette. But Jesus is not simply teaching good manners—He is revealing the logic of God’s Kingdom.

“The one who humbles himself will be exalted.” This is not just a moral principle; it is the pattern of Jesus’ own life. As Saint Paul reminds us in the letter to the Philippians, Jesus emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, humbling Himself even to death on a cross. The cross, a place of ultimate humiliation in human eyes, became the place of ultimate exaltation in God’s eyes.

This turns our usual thinking upside down. We often assume that to rise, we must assert ourselves, promote ourselves, secure our place. But Jesus shows another way: the way of self-emptying love, of service without seeking reward, of giving rather than grasping.

To humble ourselves does not mean to deny our worth or hide our gifts. It means to place those gifts at the service of others rather than using them to elevate ourselves. It means allowing God to be God in our lives, rather than insisting on our own importance.

The guests at the banquet were focused on getting—getting recognition, status, honour. Jesus invites His disciples to focus on giving—giving time, attention, care, and love. When we live this way, we may not always be noticed or appreciated. In fact, we may even be overlooked. But Jesus assures us that such a life is never wasted, because God sees what others do not.

The honour that comes from people is often fleeting. It depends on opinions, circumstances, and time. But the honour that comes from God is lasting. It is the quiet affirmation of a life lived in love, a life conformed to Christ. It may not be fully revealed now, but it will be made known in God’s time.

We can think of the many hidden acts of service that sustain our world: the parent who sacrifices quietly for their children, the worker who does their job faithfully without recognition, the person who forgives when it is difficult, the one who chooses kindness when no one is watching. These are the lives that reflect the heart of Christ.

And so the Gospel challenges us gently but firmly: where do we seek our place? At the centre of attention, or at the side of service? Are we striving to be noticed, or willing to love without being seen? The way up, in God's Kingdom, is indeed the way down.

There is another story of a monastery where a new monk arrived, eager to prove himself. He expected to be given important responsibilities, perhaps teaching or leadership. Instead, the abbot assigned him to work in the kitchen, washing dishes day after day. At first, he was disappointed, even resentful. But over time, he began to see the faces of those he served, to pray as he worked, and to find joy in small, hidden acts of love. Years later,

when he was chosen to lead the community, he said, "I learned everything I needed to know about God at the sink." In losing the place of honour he expected, he found the place where God could truly raise him up.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that, following Christ who chose the way of humble service,
our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the Father
almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
accept these gifts we bring before You,
and free our hearts from the desire for empty honour,
so that, like Christ Your Son,
we may learn the joy of humble and generous service.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PREFACE

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

For He showed us the true path to greatness
not through power or prestige,
but through humility, compassion, and self-giving love.
He took the lowest place among us,
washing the feet of His disciples
and offering His life upon the Cross,
so that those who humble themselves in love
might be raised up by Your saving grace.

Through Him, the hidden works of kindness,
the quiet sacrifices of faithful hearts,
and the unnoticed acts of mercy
become precious in Your sight.

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,
we dare to pray as children of the Father,
asking for hearts humble enough to serve
and trusting that He will raise up those who walk in love:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and free us from the pride that seeks honour before others.
Grant us the grace to follow the humble path of Christ,
serving faithfully even when unseen or unrecognised,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now
and for ever.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, You taught us that true greatness is found in humble service and that peace is born from hearts freed from pride and selfish ambition. 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 humbled Himself to share our human life
and was exalted by the Father through the glory of the Cross. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, You chose the lowest place
and transformed it into the place of grace.
Teach us to find joy not in being praised,
but in loving faithfully and serving quietly.
May this Eucharist strengthen us
to walk the humble path that leads to true life in You.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having been nourished by this holy Sacrament, O Lord,
teach us to live with the humble heart of Christ,
so that, seeking not our own glory but the good of others,
we may bear witness to the quiet power of Your love.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you with the humility of Christ,
the joy of hidden service, and the peace that comes from
seeking God's will above all things.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord
by serving others with humble and generous hearts.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

"The honour that lasts is not the applause of the world, but the quiet approval of God. The way up in God's Kingdom is always the way down—in humble love and hidden service."