

1 NOV., 2026 - A – SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

Rev 7:2–4, 9–14; 1 Jn 3:1–3; Mt 5:1–12a

INTRODUCTION

A teacher once asked her students to write down the names of people who had influenced their lives for the good. One student filled the page with famous names. Another wrote only a few: “my grandmother,” “my football coach,” “our neighbour,” and “the nurse who cared for my father before he died.” When asked why, the student replied: “These were the people through whom I could feel that God was near.”

Today, on the Solemnity of All Saints, we celebrate those kinds of people — not only the canonized saints, but the countless holy men and women whose lives allowed the light of Christ to shine through them. Some are known to the world; many were hidden and ordinary. Yet all belong to that great multitude standing before the throne of God.

The feast reminds us that holiness is not reserved for the perfect. The saints were people who struggled, suffered, doubted, failed, and yet kept holding onto Christ. They became holy not because they were flawless, but because they allowed God’s grace to transform them.

As we come before the Lord today, we recognize the ways we have resisted His light, the times we have grown tired in faith or failed to reflect His goodness to others. Let us ask for mercy and for hearts renewed by His grace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us to become saints by living in the light of your love: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you strengthen the weary and lead your people through every trial: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you gather a countless multitude around your heavenly throne and prepare a place for us there:
Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God,
who has called us to share in the glory of all the saints
and clothed us in the mercy of the Lamb,
forgive us our sins, strengthen us in holiness,
and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE GLORIA

With the angels and saints,
with that countless multitude who praise God before the
heavenly throne, let us now lift our voices in joy and sing:

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, who call your people to holiness
and surround us with the witness of the saints,
grant that, strengthened by your grace
and washed in the mercy of the Lamb,
we may persevere through every trial
and allow the light of Christ to shine through our lives,
so that one day we may rejoice among the great multitude
before your throne.

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 tired traveller crossing a mountain path at dusk. The fog had grown thick, the road had almost disappeared, and he began to fear that he had lost his way. Then, far above him on the hillside, he noticed scattered lights shining from distant homes. He could not yet see the village itself, but those little lights told him something important: people had already reached the destination safely. Others had walked this road before him. So he kept going, one careful step at a time, guided by lights he could not fully reach yet, but which gave him hope.

The Feast of All Saints is like that. It is the feast of the lights on the hillside. It reminds us that the journey of faith is not an illusion, that holiness is possible, and that

countless ordinary men and women have already arrived where God desires to lead us all.

The Book of Revelation was written in one of the darkest moments of the early Church. Around the year 95 AD, Christians in the Roman Empire were discouraged, persecuted, and exhausted. The first enthusiasm of the Christian movement had faded. Forty years earlier, believers had burned with zeal for Christ. They had expected the Lord to return soon. They lived with hearts on fire. But years passed, decades passed, and Christ did not visibly return. Gradually fatigue crept in. Worship became routine. Faith became heavy. Many abandoned Christ to escape suffering and persecution. The great apostles Peter and Paul were already dead. Only the old apostle John remained, exiled by the emperor to the lonely island of Patmos between modern Turkey and Greece.

There, in prayer, John wondered: “Is this the end? Will the Church survive?” And then something extraordinary happened. On a Sunday, while praying for the Church,

John received a vision. An angel seemed to say to him: “John, you are only seeing half of reality. Come and see the other half.”

And suddenly John saw heaven opened. He saw the throne of God surrounded by a countless multitude from every nation, race, tribe, and language. They carried palm branches, the ancient sign of victory. On their foreheads was the seal of the living God — the sign of the Cross first traced upon them in Baptism. They were not failures. They were victors. These were the ones who had come through the great tribulation, who had struggled, suffered, fallen, risen again, and remained faithful. They had washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. Not by their own perfection had they become holy, but because they had clung to Christ who died and rose for them.

That vision speaks powerfully to our own age. Many today also grow tired in faith. Some wonder whether the Church still has a future. Others become discouraged by scandals, divisions, suffering, or the slow passage of time. Yet All

Saints tells us again: we are seeing only half the reality. Beyond what is visible stands the great cloud of witnesses. Heaven is not empty. The victory of Christ is already unfolding.

The saints are not merely the few canonized figures whose statues stand in churches. Today's feast celebrates all the saints: known and unknown, famous and hidden, martyrs and mothers, priests and workers, young and old. As Revelation says, they are "a huge number, impossible to count." Many of them once sat where we sit now. They struggled with weakness, doubts, temptations, failures, and fears.

That is why another story helps us understand holiness more deeply.

A priest once recalled how, as a little boy, he slept in his grandparents' room after his grandfather died. Above the bed hung two old-fashioned holy pictures: Saint Aloysius holding a lily and Maria Goretti gazing piously toward heaven. As a child he thought: "I do not want to become a

saint like that!" The saints seemed unreal, almost inhuman. But years later, during a crisis of faith as a teenager, he encountered holiness in a completely different way.

Forced reluctantly by his mother to go to confession during Lent, he entered the confessional of his parish priest. Nervous and ashamed, he forgot everything he had prepared to say. But instead of criticizing him, the priest treated him with extraordinary patience, kindness, and understanding. He listened to his doubts and questions. He welcomed him with compassion. Leaving the church that day, the young man said to his mother: "The way our parish priest treated me — that is how I imagine Jesus would have treated me." That is holiness.

A saint is not someone flawless, cold, or unreachable. A saint is someone through whom the goodness of Christ shines. The saints are transparent for God. Like stained-glass windows, they allow the light of heaven to pass through them. From outside, stained glass may look dusty and imperfect. But when sunlight streams through it, it

becomes radiant with color and beauty. So too with the saints. Peter denied Jesus. Paul persecuted the Church. Augustine lived a restless and sinful youth. Many saints looked unimpressive from the outside. Yet when God's grace shone through them, their lives became luminous.

The second reading today tells us something astonishing: "We are already God's children." Holiness begins there. It does not begin with heroic perfection but with being loved by God. The saints are those who allowed themselves to be transformed by that love.

Saint John says something even more beautiful: "We shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." And who is God? Saint John elsewhere gives the simplest and deepest answer: "God is Love." Our final destiny is not merely to enter a place called heaven; it is to encounter Love itself and be transformed by it forever.

That destiny must shape how we live now. The Beatitudes in today's Gospel are not impossible ideals reserved for a spiritual elite. They are the portrait of Jesus Himself and

therefore the portrait of every true saint. Blessed are the poor in spirit, the merciful, the pure of heart, the peacemakers, those who hunger for justice. Holiness is lived in ordinary life: in patience with family, fidelity in suffering, honesty in work, forgiveness after wounds, kindness when no one notices.

Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan, imprisoned for thirteen years in Vietnam, once wrote from his prison cell: "Saints do not become saints by performing extraordinary things. They simply carry out their ordinary duties with extraordinary love." The real crisis of the Church, he said, is not a crisis of authority or structures, but a crisis of holiness.

And perhaps that is true. The world does not need more impressive Christians. It needs more transparent ones — people through whom others can glimpse Christ.

Maybe you have already met such saints: a grandmother who prayed quietly every day; a father who sacrificed himself for his family; a teacher who awakened hope; a friend who remained faithful in suffering; someone whose goodness made you think, "This is how Jesus must be."

And perhaps, unknown even to yourself, someone has glimpsed Christ through you.

There is another story told of a child visiting a cathedral for the first time. As sunlight streamed through the stained-glass windows, the child asked the teacher, “Who are the saints?” The teacher answered, “The saints are the people the light shines through.”

That is the calling of All Saints. Not perfection without struggle, but lives through which the light of Christ can shine.

And when John looked toward the throne of God, he noticed something else: among that countless multitude there was still room. A place still waiting.

A place for you. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE CREDO

United with the Church on earth
and with the communion of saints in heaven,
let us now profess the faith
that has guided countless believers to the glory of God.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (for personal meditation only)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
who created us out of love
and calls all His children to share in the glory of heaven.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
the Lamb who was slain for our salvation,
who carried the Cross for us,
washed us in His mercy,
and opened for us a place before the throne of God.

I believe that through Baptism
we have been marked with the seal of Christ
and called to walk the path of holiness,
not by our own strength alone,
but through the grace that flows from His Cross.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens the weary,
guides the Church through every trial,
and makes saints even out of weak and ordinary people.

I believe in the communion of saints,
that great multitude from every nation and language
who now rejoice in the presence of God
and encourage us on our earthly pilgrimage.

I believe in the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting,
where we shall see God as He truly is
and become fully alive in His love forever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that our lives and these gifts,
offered with hope in the communion of saints,
may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May these offerings we bring before you, O Lord,
honour the wonderful work of your grace in all the saints,
and grant that we who still journey through the struggles of
this world may persevere faithfully in the way of holiness
until we share in the joy of the heavenly liturgy.
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 today you
reveal to us the glory of your Church fulfilled in the saints,
that countless multitude from every nation and language
who stand before your throne clothed in white robes,
their victory won through the blood of the Lamb.
In them you show us that holiness is possible,
for your grace shines through human weakness
and your mercy transforms ordinary lives into reflections of
Christ.

You strengthen your pilgrim Church on earth
through the witness of those who have gone before us in
faith,
encouraging us to persevere through trial,
to hunger for righteousness,
to walk the path of mercy and peace,
and to keep our eyes fixed on the glory you promise.

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

As children of the Father,
marked with the seal of Christ in Baptism
and journeying toward the heavenly kingdom prepared for
the saints, we dare to pray:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and strengthen us when faith grows weary or hope grows
faint.

Keep our eyes fixed on the heavenly glory promised to
your saints, that, sustained by your mercy and guided by
the example of the holy ones who have gone before us,
we may persevere in faith and rejoice in the coming of our
Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you called blessed the peacemakers
and gathered saints from every nation into the harmony 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 washes our robes in his mercy
and calls us to share in the joy of all the saints.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The saints were not people without weakness;
they were people who did not let go of Christ.

Like stained-glass windows,
they allowed the light of God to shine through their lives.
And now the same Lord who strengthened them
has come to dwell within us in this Eucharist.

There is a place before the throne of God prepared for
each one of us.

May this sacrament strengthen our hearts
until we join that countless multitude in eternal praise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We adore you, O God,
whose holy gift has nourished us on our earthly pilgrimage,
and we pray that, encouraged by the witness of all the
saints and strengthened by the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may continue faithfully on the path of holiness
until you gather us into the joy of your heavenly kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May God, who has called you to share in the inheritance of
the saints, strengthen you in faith, hope, and love. **Amen.**
May Christ, the Lamb who was slain for our salvation,
wash away your sins and keep you faithful through every
trial. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit make your lives radiant with the light of
God's holiness, so that others may glimpse Christ through
you. **Amen.**

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

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace,
and let the light of Christ shine through your lives,
so that the world may recognize among us
the holiness to which God calls all His people.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Holiness is not perfection without struggle;
it is allowing the light of Christ to shine through ordinary
lives.

All Souls' Day – A - 02. Nov. 2026

Is 25:6–9; Rom 5:5–11; Mt 11:25–30

INTRODUCTION

A little boy once asked his grandmother, “Where do people go when they die?” She pointed to the stars and said, “They may disappear behind the clouds, but they are still there.” Today we remember those we love who have gone before us.

Death changes our relationship with them, but it does not destroy the communion of love. In Christ, our loved ones have gone no further than the Lord, and our prayer remains an expression of our enduring love.

Isaiah speaks of God preparing a feast and wiping away every tear. St Paul assures us that God’s love has been poured into our hearts and that, through Christ, we are reconciled and given hope.

In the Gospel, Jesus promises rest to all who are burdened. As we entrust our departed to God’s mercy and

seek the fullness of life in Christ, let us first acknowledge our sins and ask for the Lord's mercy.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

You came to heal our sorrow and give rest to those who are burdened: Lord, have mercy.

You call us to remain united in love with those who have gone before us: Christ, have mercy.

You died and rose again, opening for us the way to the fullness of eternal life: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who has conquered death through Christ, look with mercy upon us and our departed loved ones, heal our sorrow, strengthen our hope, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who in your Son Jesus Christ
have conquered death and opened for us the way to
eternal life, look with mercy upon your departed servants.
Receive them into the fullness of your risen life,
wipe away every tear,
and strengthen us who remain on our earthly pilgrimage
with faith, hope and enduring love,
that one day we may rejoice together in your presence.
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 little boy once asked his grandmother, “Grandma, where do people go when they die?” She pointed to the night sky and said, “Do you see the stars? Sometimes they disappear behind the clouds, but they are still there. Death is a little like that. We may no longer see the person we love, but love has not disappeared.”

That is what we celebrate today. Death changes our relationship with our loved ones; it does not destroy it.

Today we remember our faithful departed—our parents, brothers and sisters, relatives, friends, and all those whose lives touched ours. We may no longer hear their voices or hold their hands, but the communion of love continues. As St Paul reminds us, “*Love never ends.*”

This is the beautiful truth of the Communion of Saints. We are still on our earthly pilgrimage; our loved ones have gone before us. Yet we remain united in Christ. They have gone no further than the Lord—and the Lord is still with us.

That is why we pray for them. Prayer is not simply remembering the dead; it is an expression of continuing love. When we say, “Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them,” we are not asking God merely to give them inactivity or silence. In Scripture, rest means renewal, fullness and life. We ask God to revive their deepest selves and bring them to the fullness of life in Christ.

And Jesus says to us today: “Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.” These words are also for us who grieve. Jesus carries our sorrow with us. His death and resurrection assure us that death is not the end. Life is changed, not ended.

So today, let us remember with tears—but also with gratitude. Let us thank God for the lives of those we have loved. Let us pray for them, entrusting them completely to God's mercy. And let us live in such a way that one day we too may share with them the fullness of Christ's risen life.

A priest once asked an elderly woman what she feared most about dying. She smiled and replied, “I am not afraid of going home. I am only afraid that I might arrive before my family!”

Today reminds us that death is not the final goodbye. It is the doorway through which love continues—and Christ waits for us on the other side.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we bring these gifts to the altar, let us entrust our departed loved ones to God with faith and gratitude, trusting in Christ who has conquered death and leads us to the fullness of life and pray that this sacrifice be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look favourably, O Lord,
upon the gifts we offer for our departed brothers and sisters.
May this Eucharistic sacrifice,
the memorial of Christ’s death and resurrection,

bring them the fullness of life
and strengthen us in the hope
that death is not the end, but the passage to eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

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

For he has conquered death
and opened for us the way to eternal life.
Because of his death and resurrection,
we know that life is changed, not ended,
and that those who have gone before us
remain united with us in the communion of love.

In him, our sorrow is touched by hope,
our tears by the promise of consolation,
and our earthly pilgrimage by the assurance
of the fullness of life to come.

And so, with the Angels and all the Saints,
we praise you, as without end we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

With confidence in the God who wipes away every tear
and with hope in the eternal life promised through Christ,
let us pray for the coming of his Kingdom
and for the fullness of life for our departed loved ones,
as the Lord himself taught us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil
and grant us your peace in our sorrow and pilgrimage.
Keep us faithful to you
and united with those who have gone before us in faith,
as we await with hope the fullness of life and the coming of
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you have conquered death
and opened for us the way to eternal life.
Look with compassion upon us in our sorrow

and grant peace to our hearts and to our families.
May your peace strengthen our hope
and keep us united in love
with those who have gone before us.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold Jesus Christ,
who carries our burdens, comforts us in our sorrow,
and promises us rest and fullness of life.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, you have told us,
“Come to me... and I will give you rest.”

Today we place before you
the faces and names of those we have loved and lost.
We thank you for the gift of their lives
and for the love that death cannot destroy.

May they find in you eternal rest,
fullness of life and perpetual light.
And when our own hearts are burdened by grief,
remind us that they have gone no further than you—
and that you remain close to us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son,
we give you thanks, O Lord, for the gift of your love
and for the lives of those who have gone before us.

Grant that this Eucharist
may bring our departed loved ones
to the fullness of eternal life
and strengthen us on our earthly pilgrimage,
so that, united in Christ,
we may one day rejoice together in your Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May God,
who raised his Son from the dead
and promises life that death cannot destroy,
strengthen your faith and deepen your hope.
May he comfort you in sorrow
and keep alive in you the communion of love
with those who have gone before you.
And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace, trusting in Christ, carrying gratitude, hope,
and the assurance that love never ends.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT:

“Death changes our relationship, but in Christ, love never ends.”

3 Nov., 2026 – Tue., 31st Week in Ordinary Time

Phil 2:5–11; Lk 14:15–24

“From invitation to response: staying faithful to our ‘yes.’”

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a village musician who was chosen each evening to ring the bell that gathered the people for prayer. For many years he was faithful, but over time he became distracted with other responsibilities. One evening he delayed, thinking, “I will do it in a few minutes.” The bell never rang, and many simply passed the evening without remembering the hour of prayer. What was forgotten was not the bell itself, but the response it was meant to awaken.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus speaks of people who had already accepted an invitation to a great banquet, yet when the moment arrived, they allowed other concerns to take precedence. Their excuses sounded reasonable, but their hearts had slowly become unavailable.

The Lord continues to invite us—not only to heaven someday, but to communion with him now: in prayer, in love, in the Eucharist, and in daily faithfulness. The challenge of discipleship is not simply saying “yes” once, but remaining faithful to that “yes” through the distractions and demands of life.

As we gather to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us ask ourselves where our response to God has grown weak or delayed. Trusting in his mercy, let us now acknowledge our sins and ask for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you continually invite us to the banquet of your grace, yet we have often delayed our response:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you remained faithful to the Father’s will even unto death, yet we have allowed distractions to weaken our discipleship: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you gather the poor, the forgotten, and the lost into your Kingdom, yet we have sometimes closed our hearts to your call: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God,
whose invitation never ceases
and whose mercy is greater than our hesitation,
forgive us our sins, strengthen us in faithful discipleship,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
who call your people without ceasing
to share in the banquet of your Kingdom,
grant us the grace to remain faithful to the “yes”
we have spoken in baptism and discipleship,
that, following the obedience and humility of your Son,
we may respond generously to your invitation each day.

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 weeks preparing a grand celebration for his daughter’s wedding. Invitations were sent out well in advance, and many responded with enthusiasm. But on the day of the feast, as the tables were set and the food was ready, messages began to arrive. One guest had business to attend to. Another had just made a purchase that needed attention. Another simply found something else more pressing. One by one, those who had promised to come withdrew. The father stood in a silent hall, not because he had failed to invite—but because others had failed to come.

This is the scene Jesus paints in today’s Gospel. A generous host prepares a great banquet. The invitation has already been accepted. Yet when the moment arrives—“Come, everything is ready now”—the excuses begin. Each excuse sounds reasonable. None of them are evil. But together, they reveal something deeper: a heart no longer available.

The tragedy in the parable is not that people rejected the invitation outright. It is that they allowed other things—good things—to take priority over the invitation that mattered most. A field, some oxen, a marriage—these are not bad realities. But they became obstacles when they displaced the greater good of responding to the host.

This is where the Gospel becomes uncomfortably close to our own lives. We too have received the invitation. In baptism, in our call to discipleship, in every Eucharist, the Lord says to us, “Come, everything is ready now.” Yet how often do we respond with delay, distraction, or quiet refusal? Not because we reject God—but because we are too occupied.

Saint Paul, in the first reading, gives us the inner attitude that keeps us faithful to our “yes.” He invites us to have the mind of Christ—who did not cling to privilege, but emptied himself, becoming obedient even unto death. Christ did not hesitate or make excuses. His “yes” to the Father was complete, consistent, and lived out to the end.

In contrast, the parable shows us how easily our “yes” can weaken. We begin with sincerity, but we do not persevere. We mean well, but we drift. And yet, the most striking part of the Gospel is not human failure—it is divine determination. The host does not cancel the banquet. He widens the invitation. He goes out to the poor, the forgotten, the unexpected. God will have a full table.

This reveals something profoundly consoling: God’s desire for us is stronger than our hesitation. He continues to invite. He continues to seek. Like the psalm says, he longs for us with the tenderness of a mother for her child. But the invitation, however persistent, still awaits a response.

A final story. A teacher once told her students that there would be a surprise celebration at the end of the term. “Be ready,” she said. Some students took her words seriously and stayed attentive. Others assumed there would be time later. When the day came, the celebration began suddenly. Those who were ready entered into the joy. Those who delayed found themselves unprepared—not because they

were excluded, but because they had not responded in time.

The Lord's invitation is not only about the future; it is about now. The banquet is being prepared in the present moment—in this Eucharist, in this day, in each quiet call of grace. The question is not whether we have been invited. The question is whether we will stay faithful to our "yes."

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that our faithful response to the Lord's invitation,
expressed through these gifts placed upon the altar,
may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, receive the gifts we bring before you
and strengthen within us hearts that remain attentive to
your call. May this sacrifice teach us the obedience of
Christ and keep us faithful to the grace we have received.
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 continually invite your people
to the banquet of salvation
and never cease to call us into communion with yourself.
Even when we grow distracted or hesitant,
your mercy remains patient
and your love continues to seek the lost and forgotten.

In your Son, who humbled himself in obedience unto
death,
you have shown us the perfect response of love and
fidelity.

Through his Death and Resurrection,
the table of grace has been prepared for all peoples,
and the doors of your Kingdom remain open
to those who hear your call with faithful hearts.

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 his divine
teaching, we dare to pray as children invited to the banquet
of the Kingdom, trusting in the Father
who never ceases to call us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and free us from the distractions and hesitations
that weaken our response to your grace.
Graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of
your mercy, we may always remain faithful to the "yes" we
have spoken to you and be protected from sin and all
distress, as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you remained faithful to the Father's will
and gathered all people into the peace 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,
behold him who invites us to the banquet of eternal life.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Lord has once again prepared a place for us at his
table. He does not tire of inviting, calling, and welcoming
us. In this Eucharist, Christ renews his faithful "yes" to the
Father and strengthens our own response to him. May we
leave this celebration with hearts ready, attentive, and
available to his grace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having been nourished at the table of your Son,
we pray, O Lord, that this holy sacrament may deepen our
fidelity to your call and keep alive within us the desire for
your Kingdom. May we who share in this sacred banquet
remain steadfast in faith and generous in love.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord, who continually invites you to the banquet of
his Kingdom, keep your hearts faithful to the “yes” you
have spoken to him. Amen.

May Christ Jesus, who humbled himself in perfect
obedience to the Father, strengthen you to persevere in
love and discipleship. Amen.

And may the Holy Spirit make you attentive to every call of
grace and ready to serve the Lord each day. Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
remaining faithful to the Lord’s invitation
and ready to live your “yes” each day.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

God’s invitation is already given.
The challenge is not saying “yes” once,
but remaining faithful to that “yes” every day.

4 Nov., 2026 – Wed., 31st Week in Ordinary Time

(St Charles Borromeo)

Phil 2,12-18; Lk 14,25-33

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a young musician who was offered two opportunities at the same time. One was a comfortable, well-paying job that would guarantee stability. The other was a chance to study under a demanding master—no guarantees, long hours, and the possibility of failure. After nights of wrestling, he chose the harder path. Years later, when asked why, he said, “Because I realized I couldn’t give my heart to two masters. One had to come first.”

We understand that tension. Life constantly places before us competing loves, competing loyalties—family, work, security, reputation, comfort. None of these are bad in themselves. In fact, many are good and even necessary. Yet the deeper question remains: what holds first place in our hearts?

Today, as we celebrate St Charles Borromeo, we see a man who faced that very question. Born into privilege and

comfort, he could have chosen an easy life. Instead, he gave himself entirely to Christ and to the reform of the Church, even at great personal cost. For him, Christ was not one priority among many—Christ was the centre from which everything else found meaning and direction.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus calls us to place him above every competing attachment and to follow him with an undivided heart. Therefore, let us acknowledge where our commitment has grown weak, where comfort has taken the place of discipleship, and ask the Lord for mercy and the grace to choose him first.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

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

Christ Jesus, you teach us that when you are first, all love finds its rightful place: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you strengthen us to carry the cross with faith and perseverance: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us the times we have chosen comfort over fidelity, self over discipleship, and divided our hearts between you and the passing things of this world; strengthen us to place Christ at the centre of our lives and lead us in the way of faithful love, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who made Saint Charles Borromeo
a faithful shepherd of your Church
and a courageous servant of renewal and charity,
grant, we pray, that by placing Christ above every earthly
attachment, we may persevere in discipleship with
generous hearts and carry our daily cross in love and trust.
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 began building a house on a beautiful piece of land. He laid the foundation with enthusiasm, telling everyone about his dream home. But slowly, the funds ran out, the energy faded, and the project was abandoned. For years, the unfinished structure stood there—a silent witness not to lack of ability, but to lack of commitment.

Jesus' images in today's Gospel are just as concrete: a builder who does not finish, a king who goes to war without reckoning the cost. Both begin well; both end poorly. And Jesus applies this directly to discipleship. Following him is not about a good beginning—it is about a faithful perseverance that has counted the cost.

That is why he uses such strong language about “hating” family. It is not a call to rejection, but a call to clarity. If Christ is not first, even our best loves become disordered. But when he is first, everything else is transformed. Love becomes deeper, freer, less possessive—more like God's own love.

St Paul, in the first reading, brings this into daily life: “Work out your salvation with fear and trembling.” Not fear as anxiety, but as seriousness, as reverence. And yet, he adds immediately, “God is at work in you.” The cost is real—but so is the grace. We do not walk this path alone. St Charles Borromeo lived this truth in a striking way. As a bishop during a time of great need in the Church, he did not choose comfort or reputation. He chose reform, service, and fidelity—even when it meant opposition and personal sacrifice. Because Christ was first in his life, he was able to love his people more deeply and serve them more faithfully. His life reminds us that holiness is not about doing extraordinary things, but about placing Christ at the centre of everything.

Still, there is a decision to be made. Jesus does not force discipleship; he invites it. But he refuses to dilute it. He will not accept a divided heart or a half-hearted commitment. The cross is not an optional extra—it is part of the journey. And here is the paradox: when Christ becomes our first love, we do not lose—we receive more. Our relationships

are not diminished; they are purified. Our lives are not narrowed; they are expanded. What seems like loss becomes a deeper gain, because everything finds its rightful place in him.

To “carry the cross” is not only about suffering; it is about choosing daily—choosing Christ over ego, over comfort, over the need to control. It is in the quiet, ordinary decisions that a life of true discipleship is formed.

There is a story of a nurse who worked in a hospice. She once said that, at the end of life, people rarely spoke about their achievements or possessions. Instead, they spoke about love—who they loved, and whether they had loved well. And she noticed that those who had placed love at the centre were the most at peace.

That is what Jesus asks of us today—not less love, but rightly ordered love. To choose him first, so that in the end, we may discover that nothing true has been lost, and everything has been fulfilled.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that, choosing Christ above all things
and offering him our whole lives with undivided hearts,
our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the Father
almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look, O Lord, upon the offerings we place upon your altar,
and grant that, following the example of Saint Charles
Borromeo, we may seek not our own comfort or glory
but the things that lead us more closely to Christ and to
one another. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For you call your people not to a shallow or passing
discipleship, but to a love that places your Son above
every earthly attachment.

In Christ, you reveal that the way of the cross
is the way that leads to fullness of life.

Through the witness of Saint Charles Borromeo,
you show us that hearts centred on Christ
become instruments of renewal, compassion, and faithful
service.

Amid trials and sacrifice,
he trusted that your grace was at work within him,
strengthening him to persevere in 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...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to pray as children of the Father, asking for the
grace to place Christ first in our lives
so that all things may find their true place in him:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and free us from the attachments and fears
that keep us from following your Son wholeheartedly.
Grant us the courage to carry the cross faithfully
and the wisdom to seek first the things that endure,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us that true peace is found
when our hearts rest first in you, look not on our sins, but
on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace
and unity in accordance with your will.

Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who calls us to follow him with undivided hearts
and who strengthens us with his own life and love.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,
you remind us today that discipleship has a cost,
yet no sacrifice made for you is ever truly lost.
When we place you first,
our hearts become freer, our love becomes deeper,
and even the cross becomes a path to life.
Teach us in the quiet choices of each day
to prefer your will over our comfort,
your truth over our pride,
and your love over all passing things.
May everything in our lives find its rightful place in you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the sacred mysteries we have received, O Lord,
strengthen us in faithful discipleship,
so that, placing Christ at the centre of our lives,
we may persevere in love, carry our daily cross with hope,
and serve one another with generous hearts,
following the example of Saint Charles Borromeo.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and strengthen you
to choose Christ above every passing attachment. Amen.
May he grant you courage in carrying the cross
and perseverance in faithful discipleship. Amen.
May your love be purified and deepened so that everything
in your life may find its rightful place in him. 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 placing Christ first in your daily lives.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“When Christ becomes our first love, nothing true is lost;
everything finds its rightful place.”

5 Nov., 2026 – Thu., 31st Week in Ordinary TimePhil

3:3–8a; Lk 15:1–10

“Found by a love that never stops searching.”

INTRODUCTION

A teacher once told of a young boy who arrived at school in tears because he had lost his homework. Seeing his distress, a few classmates quietly retraced his steps with him until, crumpled but intact, the pages were finally found beneath a bench. What touched the boy most was not only that the homework was recovered, but that others cared enough to search with him.

There is something deeply human about searching for what is lost and rejoicing when it is found. Beneath many of our own searches—for meaning, peace, direction, or belonging—lies an even deeper longing: the desire to be found, understood, and loved.

Today’s Gospel reminds us that before we ever begin searching for God, God is already searching for us. Like

the shepherd seeking the lost sheep and the woman searching for the missing coin, the Lord pursues us patiently, personally, and tirelessly.

And so, as we prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us acknowledge the times we have wandered from the Lord's love or resisted being found by his mercy, and let us ask for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you seek out those who are lost and carry them home with joy: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you welcome sinners and rejoice in every heart that returns to you: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you never cease searching for us with patient and faithful love: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God,
who never tires of seeking his wandering children
and rejoices whenever they return to him,
have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, whose mercy seeks out the lost
and whose love rejoices in their return,
grant that we who have been found by your grace
may cling above all things to Christ your Son
and walk faithfully in the joy of your kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A man once shared how, as a child, he wandered away from his parents in a crowded marketplace. At first, he was curious, then distracted, and finally terrified when he realized he could not find his way back. What he did not know was that his father had already begun searching the moment he disappeared—pushing through the crowd, calling his name, scanning every face. When they were finally reunited, the father lifted him up, not with anger, but with overwhelming relief and joy.

That image brings us close to the heart of today's Gospel. Jesus tells two simple stories: a shepherd who leaves ninety-nine sheep to find one that is lost, and a woman who turns her house upside down to find a single missing coin. Both stories end the same way—with joy, shared joy, overflowing joy.

But these parables were not told in a vacuum. Jesus tells them because he is being criticized: *“This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”* In other words, *“Why is he spending time with the wrong people?”* Jesus responds by revealing something essential about God: God is not distant or indifferent. God is the one who searches.

The shepherd and the woman are images of Jesus himself. His entire mission is a search-and-rescue mission. He goes after those who are lost—not cautiously, not half-heartedly, but with what seems almost like extravagance. Leaving ninety-nine sheep? Throwing a celebration for a coin? It feels excessive. And that is precisely the point. God's love is excessive by our standards.

We often imagine that we are the ones searching for God, trying to find meaning, direction, or peace. And that is true to some extent. But the Gospel reminds us that even more fundamental is this: God is searching for us. As Saint John writes, *“We love because God first loved us.”* Our search is always a response to being sought.

Saint Paul, in the first reading, speaks about what truly matters to him: *“the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”* Everything else he once valued fades in comparison. Why? Because Paul had experienced being found. Once lost in his own certainties, he was sought out and transformed by Christ.

There is also a subtle but important detail in the Gospel: when the lost is found, there is joy not only in the finder, but in heaven itself. *“There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents...”* God does not merely tolerate our return; God delights in it. Heaven rejoices when we allow ourselves to be found.

And that may be the hardest part—not the searching, but the allowing. We can resist being found. We can hide behind pride, fear, or the belief that we are not worth the trouble. Yet the parables insist: we are worth it. Each one of us is the “one sheep,” the “one coin,” of immeasurable value.

So the invitation today is simple but profound: let yourself be found. Open a space in your life where the Lord can reach you—perhaps in prayer, in the Eucharist, in reconciliation, or even in a quiet moment of honesty. The search is already underway. The question is whether we will respond.

A woman once recounted losing her elderly mother, who had dementia, in a park. Panic set in immediately. Strangers joined the search—calling out, walking different paths, refusing to give up. After what felt like an eternity, they found her sitting quietly on a bench, unaware she had been lost. Tears turned into laughter, fear into relief, and strangers into companions in joy.

That is the Gospel in miniature. Whether we realize it or not, we are being searched for by a love that never gives up. And when we are found, there is joy—God’s joy, and, if we allow it, our own.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that, gathered by the Lord who never ceases to seek his people, our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour, O Lord,
upon the gifts we place upon your altar,
and in your mercy draw us ever closer to you,
so that, rejoicing in being found by your love,
we may offer ourselves more fully in your 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.
For in your great mercy
you never abandon those who stray from you,
but seek them with patient and faithful love.
In your Son, Jesus Christ,
you revealed yourself as the Good Shepherd
who searches for the lost,
welcomes sinners at his table,
and rejoices whenever one heart returns to your grace.
Through him heaven itself rejoices,
for your love is stronger than our wandering
and your mercy never grows weary.
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,
we dare to pray as children sought and gathered by the
Father's unfailing love:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may never wander far from your love
but remain open to the grace by which you seek and
restore us, as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of your people,
you seek the lost, heal the wounded,
and gather all into the peace of your Father's house;
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 searches for the lost and rejoices to bring them home.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, in this Eucharist you have found us once again and gathered us close to your heart.

Teach us to trust the love that never stops searching for us. May we never hide from your mercy, but live each day in the joy of being known, forgiven, and loved.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these sacred mysteries, O Lord, we give you thanks for the mercy with which you continually seek and restore us. Grant that, strengthened by this heavenly food, we may remain faithful to Christ and become instruments of your searching love in the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord, who never ceases to search for his children, draw you ever closer to his merciful heart. Amen.

May Christ the Good Shepherd carry you safely when you are weak and lead you always in the paths of life. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit fill you with the joy of knowing that you are deeply loved and never abandoned. Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life, and never forget that you are sought, found, and loved by God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Before we ever begin searching for God, God is already searching for us. The greatest spiritual turning point comes when we stop hiding and allow ourselves to be found by the love that never gives up.

6 Nov., 2026 – Fri., 31st Week in Ordinary Time

Phil 3,17-4,1; Lk 16,1-8

Choose wisely what lasts.

INTRODUCTION

A man once spent years building a beautiful house by the sea. He invested everything in it—his time, his energy, his savings. But after a violent storm, much of it was swept away. Standing before the ruins, he quietly said, “I spent my life building what could not last.”

In many ways, that story touches our own hearts. Every day we invest ourselves in something—our work, our plans, our ambitions, our relationships. Yet the Scriptures today invite us to ask an important question: What truly endures?

Saint Paul reminds us that our true homeland is in heaven, while Jesus calls us to live with wisdom and urgency, choosing what leads to lasting treasure rather than passing gain.

As we begin this Eucharist, let us acknowledge the times we have focused more on what fades than on what remains forever, and ask the Lord to realign our hearts with his wisdom and love.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us to seek the treasures that endure forever: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you invite us to live with wisdom, generosity, and faithful hearts: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you strengthen us to stand firm in you and to choose what truly lasts: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and teach us to seek what endures forever through lives rooted in faith, love, and fidelity to his will, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who teach us through your Son
to seek the riches that neither fade nor perish,
grant that, standing firm in faith and steadfast in love,
we may use the gifts of this world wisely
while setting our hearts on the treasures of heaven.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

There is a story of a small business owner who suddenly learned that his company was about to collapse. In a matter of days, everything he had worked for would be gone. Faced with this crisis, he did something unexpected: instead of trying to salvage profits, he reached out to his employees and clients, ensuring they were cared for, even at his own expense. Years later, those same people helped him rebuild his life in ways he could never have foreseen.

That story echoes, in a surprising way, the strange parable we hear in today's Gospel. Jesus presents us with a steward who is far from admirable—wasteful, dishonest, and about to lose his job. Yet, when crisis hits, he acts decisively. He recognizes that his future will not be secured by money, but by relationships. And so, he chooses wisely—at least in that moment.

It is striking that Jesus does not praise the man's dishonesty, but his shrewdness. The steward sees clearly when it matters most. With his back against the wall, he understands what truly counts. He is willing to let go of what he once clung to, in order to gain something more lasting.

And that is where the Gospel becomes uncomfortable. Because Jesus turns to us—the “children of light”—and says, in effect: *learn from him*. Not his lack of integrity, but his urgency, his decisiveness, his clarity of vision. How often do we drift instead of decide? How often do we postpone what we know is right? We tell ourselves there will be time—to forgive, to reconcile, to deepen our faith, to

serve more generously. But the Gospel reminds us that faith is not lived in vague intentions; it is lived in concrete, sometimes costly, decisions.

Saint Paul speaks with similar urgency. “Stand firm in the Lord,” he says. Not stand casually, not stand occasionally—but stand firm. Because he knows how easily we can lose our footing, how quickly our priorities can shift toward what is comfortable, visible, or immediately rewarding.

The steward in the parable experiences a kind of awakening. In his crisis, he realizes that relationships matter more than possessions. That insight, though born of necessity, is deeply true. At the end of our lives, it will not be what we accumulated that matters most, but whom we loved, whom we served, and how we remained faithful to God.

We, too, have our moments of quiet crisis—not always dramatic, but real. Moments when we sense that something needs to change: a habit to let go of, a step of faith to take, a relationship to heal, a deeper commitment

to make. These are moments of grace, invitations to choose wisely what lasts.

There is another story of an elderly woman who, nearing the end of her life, was asked what she valued most. She did not mention her achievements or possessions. Instead, she spoke of the people she had loved, the faith that sustained her, and the small acts of kindness she had offered along the way. “In the end,” she said, “only love remains.”

That is the wisdom the steward glimpsed, however imperfectly. That is the wisdom Paul proclaims. And that is the wisdom Jesus invites us to live: to choose, each day, not what fades, but what endures—to choose wisely what lasts.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that, learning to choose what truly lasts,
we may offer our lives and these gifts with faithful and
generous hearts, and that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour, O Lord,
upon the gifts we place upon your altar,
and teach us through this sacred offering
to value above all things
the riches of your grace and the treasures of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

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

For in your wisdom you teach us
that the things of this world are passing away,
but the love we show, the mercy we offer,
and the faith by which we stand firm in you
will endure forever.

In your Son, Jesus Christ,
you call us to live not for ourselves alone,
but for the kingdom that cannot fade,
so that, using wisely the gifts entrusted to us,
we may grow rich in compassion, holiness, and truth.

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,
we dare to pray as children of the Father,
asking for the wisdom to seek first
the treasures that endure forever:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, amid the passing things of this world,
we may remain firm in faith and steadfast in works of love,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to seek what truly lasts
and to build our lives upon the enduring foundation of your
love: free us from the distractions that divide our hearts,
and graciously grant your 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 teaches us the wisdom that endures
forever. Blessed are those called to the supper of the
Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

So much of life passes quickly: achievements fade,
possessions disappear, and even our plans can change in
a moment. Yet Christ reminds us today that love,
faithfulness, mercy, and trust in God endure beyond every
storm.

In this Eucharist, we have received the One treasure that
never fades. May the Lord help us choose each day what
truly lasts: a heart rooted in him, hands ready to serve, and
lives shaped by love.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having been nourished by these sacred mysteries, O Lord,
grant that we may stand firm in you
and learn to value above all earthly things
the lasting riches of faith, hope, and charity.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you with wisdom
to recognize what truly endures. Amen.

May he strengthen you to stand firm in faith
and generous in 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 choosing each day
what truly lasts.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Only what is rooted in God and lived in love will truly last.”

7 Nov., 2026 – Sat., 31st Week in Ordinary Time

Phil 4,10-19; Lk 16,9-15

*“What we receive is a trust; what we give becomes
eternal.”*

INTRODUCTION

A man once inherited a beautiful old house from his grandparents. It stood on a hill, filled with memories, carefully preserved furniture, and a garden that had been tended for decades. At first, he admired it from a distance, afraid to change anything. But over time, he stopped opening certain rooms, stopped inviting people over, and slowly the house—though still impressive—grew lifeless. It remained intact, but it no longer fulfilled its purpose as a home.

Something similar can happen in our spiritual lives. We receive much—faith, relationships, material resources, talents—but we can begin to hold onto them too tightly, as if preservation were the goal. Yet what is preserved but not shared slowly loses its life.

Today's readings gently challenge that instinct. St Paul speaks with deep gratitude, aware that everything he has received has come through others and ultimately from God. Jesus, in the Gospel, speaks about how we use what has been entrusted to us—especially material things—and how these choices shape our eternal future.

As we prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us ask ourselves whether we have used God's gifts generously and faithfully. Trusting in the Lord whose mercy renews all things, let us acknowledge our sins and ask for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you teach us that all we possess is entrusted to us for the good of others: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you became poor so that we might become rich in faith and love: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to store up treasures that endure for eternal life: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who calls us to faithful stewardship and opens our hearts to generosity and trust, forgive us our sins, renew us in charity, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, source of every good gift,
teach us to use wisely
all that you have entrusted to our care,
that through lives marked by gratitude, generosity, and faithful service,
we may store up treasures that endure in 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 of a shopkeeper in a small town who kept two ledgers. One recorded all the money he earned; the other quietly recorded every time he gave something away—food to a struggling family, credit to someone who couldn't pay, a gift slipped into the hands of a child. At the end of his life, it was said that the second ledger told the true story of his wealth.

Jesus, in today's Gospel, is inviting us to keep that second ledger in mind. "Use money... to win you friends," he says, not in a manipulative way, but in the sense of building relationships of care, generosity, and solidarity. Because one day, money will fail. It always does. What remains is what love has built.

This is why Jesus speaks about trust. "The one who is trustworthy in small things is trustworthy in great." Money, possessions, even our time and abilities—these are "small things" in the eyes of eternity. Yet how we use them

reveals something very great: the orientation of our hearts. Are we turned inward, or outward?

St Paul, in the first reading, gives us a lived example of this truth. He is deeply aware that he depends on others. He names people with gratitude, recognizing their support, their sacrifices, their presence in his life. Paul understands that everything is gift, and therefore everything is shared. His strength comes not from independence, but from interdependence in Christ.

That awareness changes how we see what we have. If everything is gift, then nothing is merely "mine." It is entrusted to me for a time, for a purpose. This includes not only money, but also attention, kindness, patience, skills, and even our faith. Each of these can be used to "welcome others," to create small experiences of the "eternal dwellings" Jesus speaks about.

We often think generosity requires abundance. But the Gospel suggests something different: it requires faithfulness. It is not about how much we have, but what

we do with what we have. A listening ear, a shared meal, a word of encouragement, a quiet act of service—these become seeds of eternity when offered in love.

There is also a quiet warning in today's Gospel: "You cannot be the slave of both God and money." Money becomes a master not when we possess it, but when it possesses us—when it dictates our choices, narrows our vision, or hardens our hearts. Freedom comes not from having nothing, but from being able to give.

In this month when we remember those who have gone before us, we are reminded that what ultimately endures is not what they accumulated, but what they gave: the love they shared, the faith they lived, the lives they touched.

These are the true "riches" that open the doors of eternity. There is another story told of an elderly woman who lived very simply. After her death, her family found envelopes tucked away in a drawer. Each was labelled with a name and contained small amounts of money—given quietly over the years to people in need. There was no record, no recognition, no announcement. Just love, given faithfully.

At her funeral, the church was full—not because of what she owned, but because of who she had welcomed into her life.

In the end, that is the measure Jesus offers us. Not what we held onto, but what we allowed to pass through our hands and hearts. For *what we receive is a trust; what we give becomes eternal.*

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, accept the gifts we bring before your altar, and teach us to offer not only these sacred offerings but also our time, resources, and love for the service of your people. May what we receive from your bounty become a blessing for others and bear fruit for eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

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

For in your wisdom
you entrust to your children
the gifts of creation and grace,
so that through faithful stewardship
we may learn the generosity of your heart.

You teach us through your Son
that the riches of this world pass away,
but every act of mercy, kindness, and love
becomes a treasure that endures forever in your Kingdom.

And so, with hearts made grateful by your providence,
we join the Angels and Saints
in proclaiming your glory, as we sing:

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

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to pray as children of the Father,
asking for hearts that trust in his providence
and gladly share the gifts we have received:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and free us from the fear that clings to possessions and
earthly security. Teach us to trust in your providence
and to use faithfully the gifts you place in our hands,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us that true riches are found
not in what we keep for ourselves but in what we give in
love. Free our hearts from selfishness and fear,
and grant us the peace that comes
from trusting completely in your providence.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who enriches us with the treasures of his mercy
and teaches us to give as we have received.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you have nourished us with the Bread of Life
and reminded us that all is gift.
May this Eucharist free our hearts
from the need to possess and control,
and teach us instead to live with gratitude, trust, and
generosity.

May the love we receive at this altar
flow outward into quiet acts of kindness,
faithful service, and compassion for others,
so that what passes through our hands
may bear fruit for eternity.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having been nourished
by these sacred mysteries, O Lord,
may we learn to use wisely
the gifts you have entrusted to us,
sharing them generously in love and service,
so that our lives may bear lasting fruit
in your eternal Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you with grateful hearts that recognize
every gift as coming from him.

May he free you from all selfishness and fear,
and make you generous in love and faithful in service.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord
by sharing generously what you have received.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“What we keep eventually fades; what we give in love
becomes eternal.”