8 Nov., 2026 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 6:12–16; 1 Thess 4:13–18; Mt 25:1–13

INTRODUCTION

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today's Gospel places before us the image of people waiting in the darkness with lamps in their hands. At the heart of the Christian life is this patient and loving expectation of the Lord who comes to meet us. We are not wandering aimlessly through life; we are journeying toward the Bridegroom who invites us into the joy of his kingdom.

The wise bridesmaids in the Gospel teach us that faith is not only enthusiasm at the beginning but perseverance through the long nights. Life does not always unfold according to our plans. Delays, disappointments, suffering, and uncertainty are part of every human life. Yet the Lord asks us to keep the lamp of faith burning with prayer, charity, hope, and trust.

Saint Paul reminds us today that even in grief we are people of hope because Christ has conquered death. The risen Lord whom we await at the end of our lives already walks beside us now—in the Eucharist, in Scripture, in prayer, and in every act of love and reconciliation.

As we prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us ask the Lord to forgive the times when we allowed the oil of faith to grow weak, when we delayed conversion, and when we failed to remain spiritually awake and ready for his coming.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you are the Bridegroom who comes to lead us into the joy of your kingdom: **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ Jesus, you keep alive the lamp of hope in the darkness of our lives: **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you call us to perseverance, vigilance, and faithful love as we await your coming: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, strengthen the fading lamps of our faith with the oil of his grace, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE GLORIA

Because Christ our light remains faithful even when our own light flickers, and because he calls us to share already in the joy of his kingdom, let us now raise our voices in praise and sing:

COLLECT

O God, who call your people to await with vigilant hearts the coming of your Son,
grant that, sustained by the oil of faith, hope, and charity, we may persevere faithfully through the long nights of life and be found ready to enter the eternal wedding feast 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 little boy once stood at the window late at night waiting for his father to come home. A storm had delayed the trains, and the hours dragged on. His mother told him several times, “Go to bed. Dad will come.” But the boy replied, “I just want him to see that I waited for him.” Finally, close to midnight, headlights appeared outside the house. The father entered, wet and exhausted from the rain, but the first thing he saw was his little son still awake, lamp in hand, waiting at the window. The father lifted him up and said, “You stayed awake for me.”

That simple story captures the spirit of today’s Gospel. Christianity is, at its heart, the story of people waiting for Someone they love.

The Gospel today speaks of ten bridesmaids waiting for the bridegroom. Five are called wise; five are called foolish. At first glance the parable sounds severe, even frightening. Yet before it is a warning, it is first an extraordinarily joyful message. Jesus tells us that our

destiny is not a courtroom but a wedding feast. We are not summoned primarily to judgment but invited into communion. Our calling is to go out and meet the Bridegroom.

In the Jewish culture of Jesus' time, to be chosen as one of the bridesmaids was a privilege and an honour. These young women were not random people from the street. They were specially chosen to accompany the groom into the wedding celebration. In the same way, each one of us has been chosen by God. Our Christian life is a vocation to walk toward Christ and finally to enter the joy of his kingdom.

Yet the Gospel also carries a serious message. Five bridesmaids miss the wedding feast. Why? Not because they fell asleep—all ten slept. Not because they refused to greet the bridegroom—they all rose when the cry rang out. The decisive difference was simple: when the bridegroom arrived, five were prepared and five were not.

Jesus is speaking to every generation of Christians: "Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

That command does not mean we must live in fear. Rather, it means we are to live attentively, faithfully, and wisely. The wise bridesmaids expected delay. They prepared for the long haul.

That is important because life rarely unfolds according to our timetable.

We all know this from experience. Weddings start late. Flights are delayed. Plans collapse. Relationships become strained. Health suddenly changes. We expect one path and find ourselves walking another. As the poet Robert Burns wrote, "The best laid schemes of mice and men often go awry."

Jesus' parable reflects precisely this experience. The bridegroom delays. Darkness deepens. The wait becomes longer than expected.

The real wisdom of the five wise bridesmaids was not extraordinary intelligence. Their wisdom was practical perseverance. They had enough oil for the unexpected.

Someone once asked an old monk, “Brother, what would you do if you knew you were going to die in ten minutes?” The monk continued sweeping the monastery courtyard and replied, “I would keep sweeping.”

That is Christian wisdom.

Meister Eckhart once said, “Wisdom consists in doing the next thing you have to do, doing it with your whole heart, and finding delight in doing it.” The wise bridesmaids simply did the next thing faithfully.

The question for us today is this: what keeps the lamp of our faith burning during the long nights of life?

The first reading answers beautifully: “Wisdom is bright and does not grow dim.” Biblical wisdom is not merely human cleverness. Wisdom is God’s own presence guiding us. Christians ultimately recognize this Wisdom in Christ himself.

The reading says that Wisdom “walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them.” What a consoling image! We are not only searching for God; God is searching for us. Even when we feel lost, Christ is already walking toward us.

That is especially important in moments of grief and loss.

Saint Paul wrote the First Letter to the Thessalonians very early in the history of the Church, around the year 49 AD—barely fifteen to twenty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. The first Christians expected Christ to return very soon. But as the years passed, members of the community began to die. Anxiety arose: “What will happen to those who have died before Christ returns? Will they miss the kingdom?”

Paul answers with extraordinary tenderness and hope.

He tells them not to grieve “like people who have no hope.” Notice carefully: Paul does not say Christians should not grieve. Christians cry. Christians mourn. Christians stand at gravesides with broken hearts. Jesus himself wept at the tomb of Lazarus.

But Christian grief is different because it is filled with hope.

Paul’s hope is not vague optimism. It is grounded in the resurrection of Jesus.

There is a difference between empty hope and fulfilled hope.

Imagine two women longing for a child. One hopes year after year but remains unable to conceive. The other is pregnant. In German there is a beautiful expression for pregnancy: she is “in good hope.” Both hope for a child, but one hope already has a living foundation.

So too with Christian hope.

Because Christ has risen from the dead, our hope is not empty. It already has a foundation. The resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee that death does not have the final word.

Paul declares: “We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus.”

This means our departed loved ones are not lost in some shadowy emptiness. Their destiny is not the grave. Their future is communion with Christ.

Paul ends with one of the most comforting lines in all of Scripture: “And so we shall be with the Lord forever.”

That is heaven.

Not merely a place, but a relationship.

To be forever with the One who already walks beside us now.

The risen Lord whom we shall meet at the end of our lives is not a stranger. He is already quietly present every day.

Sometimes we fail to recognize him, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus who were blinded by grief. Yet Christ continues walking beside us.

We encounter him in prayer. We encounter him in the Eucharist. We encounter him in Scripture. We encounter him in the poor. We encounter him in moments of forgiveness and reconciliation.

The responsorial psalm today expresses this longing beautifully:

“O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.”

A woman once kept a small crucifix beside her bed. During a particularly painful illness she would wake during the night unable to sleep. Often she could do nothing except look toward that crucifix in the darkness. Years later she said, “I could not always pray, but I could always remember that he was there.”

That is vigilance. That is keeping the lamp burning.

Jesus’ warning today is therefore not meant to terrify us but to awaken us.

The foolish bridesmaids made one tragic mistake: they assumed there would always be more time.

How often we think the same way.

“I will forgive later.” “I will pray later.” “I will reconcile later.” “I will return to God later.”

But the Gospel says: live now in readiness.

If there is bitterness in our hearts, now is the time to seek reconciliation. If there is sin in our lives, now is the time to seek mercy. If there is love to be shown, now is the time to show it.

Christian readiness is not panic; it is faithful daily living.

It means living today in such a way that if Christ came tonight, we would not need to scramble for oil.

And what is this “oil” that keeps the lamp burning?

It is prayer. It is faith. It is charity. It is perseverance. It is the quiet daily choosing of God. It is the Holy Spirit alive within us.

The wise bridesmaids had oil because they cultivated an inner life.

One of the saddest things in modern life is that many people have everything except inner reserves. They have money but no peace, entertainment but no joy, connections but no communion with God.

The Gospel invites us to deepen the interior life—to remain connected to Christ so that our lamps do not go out during the long nights.

And there will be long nights.

There are nights of grief. There are nights of disappointment. There are nights when faith grows weak. There are nights when God seems absent.

Yet even then the Lord remains faithful.

The first reading assures us that Wisdom “does not grow dim.” Christ’s light never fades, even when ours flickers.

Followers of Christ are called to be “long-haul people.” We are called to keep faith alive not just during moments of enthusiasm but through years of waiting, suffering, routine, and uncertainty.

Saint Paul near the end of his life could say, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

May that one day be true for us too.

A missionary priest once told of visiting an elderly woman who lived alone in a remote village. Her eyesight was fading, and she rarely left her small house. Every evening

she lit a candle before a statue of the Sacred Heart. The priest asked her, “Why do you still light the candle when you can hardly see it anymore?”

The old woman smiled and answered, “Because when the Lord passes by, I want him to know I was waiting for him.”

That is the wisdom of the Gospel.

To live each day with a lamp burning. To remain faithful through the delay. To keep hope alive through the darkness. To trust that the Bridegroom will come.

And when he comes, may he find us ready—with hearts awake, lamps alight, and lives filled with the oil of faith and love—so that we may enter with him into the eternal wedding feast and remain with the Lord forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE CREDO

United in the faith that keeps our lamps burning and in the hope of the resurrection promised by Christ, let us now profess our faith.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (for personal meditation only)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
who created us out of love
and calls us to the eternal wedding feast of his kingdom.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He is the Bridegroom who comes to meet his people.
He walked among us in our darkness,
shared our suffering, died for our sins,
and rose from the dead so that death would not have the final word.
He remains with us now—in his Word, in the Eucharist, in the poor, and in the communion of his Church.
I believe that he will come again in glory,
and that those who remain faithful to him
shall be with the Lord forever. I
believe in the Holy Spirit,
the oil that keeps the lamp of faith burning,
the giver of wisdom, perseverance, hope, and peace.
Through the Spirit, God strengthens us
to remain watchful, faithful, and ready

through the long nights of life.
I believe in the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting in the kingdom of heaven,
where Christ will wipe away every tear
and lead his faithful people into eternal joy. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, signs of our faithful waiting for the Lord, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, O Lord, upon the offerings we place upon your altar,
and through these sacred mysteries
keep alive within us the flame of faith and perseverance,
so that, walking faithfully beside Christ in this life,
we may one day enter with joy into the eternal banquet of heaven. 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 have called us not to darkness but to the light of your kingdom.
In your Son, Jesus Christ, the true Wisdom who never grows dim, you walk beside your people through every sorrow, delay, and uncertainty of life.
You strengthen us with the hope of the resurrection
and teach us to remain watchful in faith, steadfast in love, and joyful in expectation.
Through him we await the day
when every tear will be wiped away
and your faithful people will enter the eternal wedding feast, to be with the Lord forever.

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

With trust in the Father who keeps watch over his children and gives us strength to persevere with lamps alight in faith and hope, let us pray as Christ himself taught us.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, sustained by your mercy,
we may remain faithful and vigilant through the trials and uncertainties of life,
keeping alive within us the hope of the coming of Christ,
until we enter the joy of his eternal kingdom,
where we shall be with the Lord forever.
Through the mercy of our God,
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 remain with your people through every darkness and delay,
and you fill faithful hearts with the peace of your presence.
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, the Bridegroom who comes to lead us into the eternal wedding feast.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Short Meditation after Communion

Lord Jesus, you have come to us in the Eucharist as food for our journey and light for our waiting. Strengthen us through the long nights of life. Keep our hearts awake in prayer, our hands ready in charity, and our souls filled with hope, until the day we see you face to face and remain with you forever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these sacred mysteries, O Lord,
may we persevere faithfully in hope and love,
keeping the lamp of faith burning brightly within us
as we await the glorious coming of your Son.
And may this Eucharist strengthen us
to walk each day in wisdom, vigilance, and peace
until we enter the eternal joy of your kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord keep the lamp of faith burning brightly within your hearts. **Amen.**

May he strengthen you with perseverance through every darkness and trial of life. **Amen.**

May the hope of the resurrection fill you with peace and joyful expectation until the coming of Christ. **Amen.**

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, keeping your lamps alight with faith, hope, and love as you await the coming of the Lord.

Take-Home Thought

“Keep the lamp burning.”
Christian wisdom is not fear about the future but faithful perseverance each day—praying, loving, forgiving, and trusting that Christ walks beside us now and will one day lead us into the eternal wedding feast.

9 Nov., 2026 – Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (Feast)

Ez 47:1–2, 8–9, 12; 1 Cor 3:9c–11, 16–17; Jn 2:13–22

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a missionary priest who was once asked by a child, “Where does God live?” The priest pointed first to the church building and then gently placed his hand on the child’s heart and said, “God lives wherever people welcome Him.” The child never forgot those words.
Today we celebrate the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, the mother church of all churches. While we honour a sacred building, the readings invite us to discover something deeper: God desires not only temples made by human hands, but hearts made alive by His Spirit.
The prophet Ezekiel speaks of life-giving water flowing from the Temple; Saint Paul reminds us that we are God’s temple; and Jesus reveals Himself as the true Temple where God dwells among His people. Through Christ, we too are called to become living temples of His love and mercy.
Yet there are times when our hearts become cluttered with selfishness, indifference, anger, or sin, and we fail to reflect God’s presence to others. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sins and prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you are the true Temple where God dwells among His people: Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus, you call us to become living temples of your love and mercy: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you cleanse our hearts and make us worthy dwelling places for your Spirit: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God cleanse the temples of our hearts, renew us by His Holy Spirit, strengthen us to become living signs of His presence in the world, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who from living and chosen stones
prepare an eternal dwelling for your majesty,
pour forth, we pray,
the grace of your Spirit upon your Church,
so that your faithful people
may grow ever more into a holy temple pleasing to you.

Teach us to carry your presence into the world
through lives marked by faith, mercy, and love,
so that others may encounter Christ living within us.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A man once spent years carefully restoring an old chapel in his village. He repaired the roof, polished the wooden pews, and even restored the faded paintings. When it was finally completed, the village gathered for its reopening. But as the weeks passed, fewer and fewer people came. One day, the man sat alone in the beautifully restored chapel and said quietly, “The building is alive again… but where are the people?”

That simple story captures something essential about today’s feast. We celebrate the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, the cathedral of the Pope, the mother church of all churches. It is a magnificent building with a long and rich history. Yet, the Word of God today gently reminds us that, in the end, God’s presence is not confined to stone and structure.

In the first reading from Ezekiel, we are given a vision of water flowing from the Temple, bringing life wherever it goes. The Temple is seen as a source of life, healing, and fruitfulness. But this vision points beyond a physical building. It speaks of God’s desire to bring life to the whole world.

Saint Paul makes this even clearer in the second reading. Writing at a time when there were no church buildings, he tells the community, “You are God’s building… you are God’s temple.” This is a striking shift. The focus is no longer on a sacred place made of stone, but on a people made alive by the Spirit.

And then, in the Gospel, Jesus goes even further. Standing in the Temple of Jerusalem, he speaks words that must have sounded shocking: “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” He was speaking about himself. Jesus is the true Temple—the place where God fully dwells among His people.

If Jesus is the Temple, and we are his Body, then we too become a living temple. This is our deepest identity. We are not just people who go to church; we are the Church. God desires to be present in the world through us—through our words, our actions, our love.

This gives a new meaning to everything we do here. We gather in this building not because God is confined here, but because here we are formed, nourished, and sent out. The Eucharist we receive is not meant to remain within these walls; it is meant to shape our lives so that we become living signs of God’s presence in the world.

It also challenges us. If we are God’s temple, what kind of temple are we? Are our lives places where others can encounter God’s love, mercy, and truth? Or are there parts of our lives that need cleansing, just as Jesus cleansed the Temple in the Gospel?

A parishioner once shared how, during a difficult time in her life, it wasn’t a church building that brought her back to faith, but a person. A friend who listened without judgment, who showed kindness, who simply stayed. “Through her,” she said, “I felt that God had not abandoned me.” That friend had become, in a quiet and real way, a living temple of God’s presence.

And perhaps that is the invitation of today’s feast. Long after the beauty of buildings fades from memory, people will remember encounters—moments when they felt seen,

loved, forgiven, or strengthened. In those moments, the Church becomes truly alive.

So as we honour the Lateran Basilica today, we also honour what it stands for: a living Church built on Christ. And we remember that each one of us is a stone in that living temple, called to carry God's presence into the world.

Let us ask the Lord to make our lives worthy of that calling, so that wherever we go, others may encounter not just us, but Him who lives within us.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may become an offering worthy of the Lord, and that, as living temples of His presence, we may offer Him lives filled with faith, mercy, and love, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, the offerings made here,
and grant that, nourished by these sacred mysteries,
we may become living stones in your holy Church,
reflecting the presence of Christ
through lives of charity, reconciliation, and faithful witness.
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 we celebrate the mystery of your dwelling among your people. In your Son, Jesus Christ,
you established the true and eternal Temple,
where humanity is reconciled with you.
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
you gather your people into one body
and make them living temples of your grace.
You call your Church to bring healing where there is woundedness, hope where there is discouragement,

and light where there is darkness.
And so, united with all the Angels and Saints,
we proclaim your glory, as with one voice we sing:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts…

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

As children of God, called to become living temples of His presence and instruments of His peace in the world, let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and cleanse the temples of our hearts from all that
separates us from you.
Graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may always be free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you make your dwelling among your people
and call us to reflect your love in 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,
behold Him who makes His home among His people
and nourishes us to become living temples of His grace.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, you have entered the temple of our hearts
through this Eucharist. Remain with us and transform us.
May our words bring hope, our actions reveal mercy,

and our lives become places
where others encounter your living presence.
Teach us to carry the grace we have received beyond
these walls, so that the world may know
that you are alive among your people.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who chose to foreshadow for us
the heavenly Jerusalem through the sign of your Church
on earth, grant, we pray, that by sharing in this Sacrament
we may become ever more deeply united to Christ,
the true Temple, and faithfully bear your presence into the
world through lives of holiness and love.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May God, who has made you living temples of His Spirit,
fill your hearts with His grace and peace. Amen.

May Christ, the true Temple of God, strengthen you to
reveal His presence through your words and actions.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit guide you to become signs of healing,
mercy, and hope in the world. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, glorifying the Lord by your lives,
and become living temples through whom others may
encounter Christ.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Church buildings remind us where God is worshipped;
holy lives reveal where God truly dwells.

10 Nov., 2026 – Tue., 32nd Week in Ordinary Time

(St Leo the Great)

Titus 2,1-8. 11-14; Lk 17,7010

INTRODUCTION

There is a story told of a craftsman who spent years restoring an old church door. Every day he worked quietly, sanding, carving, polishing, often unnoticed by those who passed by. When the work was finally complete, someone asked him, “It must feel good to have people admire your work.” The man simply replied, “I didn’t do it for admiration. I did it because the door deserved to be beautiful.”

That quiet spirit touches something deep within us. Much of what is most valuable in life is done without applause—parents caring for children, people remaining faithful in small duties, unseen acts of kindness that no one records. Yet these are often the very places where grace is at work.

Today, on the feast of St. Leo the Great, we remember a man who served the Church with courage and wisdom, not seeking honour but defending truth and unity. He reminded Christians that everything begins with the grace of Christ, and that our lives are meant to become a grateful response to that gift.

As we gather around the altar of the Lord, we may recognise that at times we have served with divided hearts—seeking recognition, growing resentful, or forgetting that even our ability to love is itself a gift from God. Let us now ask the Lord for mercy and humble hearts as we enter into the penitential act.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us to serve one another with humble and generous hearts: Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus, you teach us to give without counting the cost or seeking reward: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you fill us with grace so that we may live in faithful love and quiet service: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who calls us to faithful service and renews us by his grace, forgive us our sins, heal the pride and selfishness within us, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE GLORIA

Because God has loved us first and called us to share in the dignity of Christ through humble service, let us now lift our hearts in praise as we sing together the Gloria.

COLLECT

O God, who never cease to form your people
through the witness of faithful servants,
grant, we pray, that, following the example of Saint Leo the Great, we may recognise with grateful hearts
the gifts you have bestowed upon us
and serve you humbly in loving service to one another.
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 volunteered for years in a small parish kitchen. She arrived early, cleaned quietly, and left before most people noticed. One day, a new volunteer asked her, “Don’t you ever get tired of no one saying thank you?” She smiled and said, “I’m not here for thanks. I’m here because this is my way of loving God.”

In today’s Gospel, Jesus gives us a striking image: a servant who, after working in the field, comes in and continues serving at table without expecting thanks. It sounds harsh to our ears, but Jesus is not endorsing a social system—he is revealing something about the heart of discipleship. *“We are merely servants; we have done no more than our duty.”*

This teaching cuts against a very human instinct. We often give with at least a small expectation of return—recognition, appreciation, or even just fairness. Yet Jesus invites us into a different kind of freedom: to serve without calculation, to love without keeping score.

St. Paul, writing to Titus, places this in a wider vision. He speaks of grace already given—*"the grace of God has appeared… training us to live upright and godly lives."*
Everything begins with grace. Our efforts, our goodness, our service are not ways of earning God's love; they are responses to a love already poured out.
This is where St. Leo the Great helps us. He taught that the dignity of the Christian comes from what Christ has done, not from what we achieve. In one of his sermons, he urged believers to "recognise your dignity" in Christ. That dignity does not lead to pride, but to humble service—because everything we have is gift.
The danger Jesus warns against is subtle: the quiet growth of pride even in doing good. We may begin to think that our faithfulness places God somehow in our debt. But the Gospel reminds us: God is never in our debt. Even our ability to serve is already his gift.

Paradoxically, this is not meant to discourage us—it is meant to free us. If everything is gift, then we are free to serve without anxiety, without comparison, without resentment. We are free to give as Jesus gave—most fully at the very moment when he received nothing in return but rejection.
And yet, God is not indifferent. While the servant in the parable expects no reward, we know from the whole Gospel that God's response to faithful love is overwhelming generosity. What we cannot claim as a right, God gives as a gift—far beyond anything we could deserve.
There is another story of a nurse who worked the night shift in a hospital for decades. Few patients remembered her name, but she stayed with the dying, held hands, whispered prayers. When asked why she kept going, she said, "At the end of the day, I don't think God will ask how many people thanked me. Only whether I loved them."
That is the heart of today's message: *faithful service, freely given, humbly received.* We serve not to be rewarded, but because we have already been loved beyond measure.
And in that quiet, faithful service, we begin to share in the very life of Christ himself.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours,
offered in humble gratitude for the grace we have received
and in faithful service to God and neighbour, may be
acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May these offerings, O Lord, be pleasing in your sight,
and through them teach us
to serve you with sincere and humble hearts,
seeking not our own glory but the fulfilment of your holy
will.
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 have loved us first
and called us to share in the life of your Son.
You teach us through the Gospel
that true greatness is found not in seeking honour
but in humble and faithful service.

In Christ your Son,
who came not to be served but to serve,
you reveal the beauty of love freely given
and the joy of lives poured out for others.
Through the witness of Saint Leo the Great
you strengthened your Church in truth and unity,
showing that all dignity comes from your grace alone.

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

Because we have received everything as gift from our loving Father, and because Christ teaches us to serve with humble hearts, let us pray with confidence in the words he gave us.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and free our hearts from pride, resentment, and selfish ambition. Grant us the peace that comes from trusting in your grace alone, so that, serving you faithfully in this life, we may wait in joyful hope
for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us that greatness is found in humble love and faithful service.
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 freely for the life of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, teach us the quiet holiness of faithful service.
Free us from the need for recognition
and deepen within us the joy of giving without counting the cost. May this Eucharist strengthen us to love as Christ loved— with humble hearts, grateful spirits, and generous hands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed by these sacred mysteries,
we humbly pray, O Lord,
that, formed by the example of Saint Leo the Great
and nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may persevere in faithful service
and bear witness to your love in all we do.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you with humble and faithful hearts.
May he free you from every spirit of pride and discouragement.
And may he strengthen you to serve with generosity, peace, and joy in the name of Christ.
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 humble and faithful service.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“We serve not to earn God’s love, but because we have already received it as gift.”

11 Nov., 2026 – Wed., 32nd Week in Ordinary Time

(St Martin of Tours)

Titus 3:1–7; Lk 17:11–19

“Grace received, gratitude returned.”

INTRODUCTION

There is a story told of a soldier who returned home after a long and difficult war. One winter evening, he passed a poor man shivering by the roadside. Without hesitation, he took off his own cloak, cut it in half, and shared it with the stranger. That night, he dreamt of Christ wearing the very piece of cloak he had given away, saying, “What you did for the least, you did for me.” That soldier was Martin, whom we honour today as Saint Martin of Tours.

Saint Martin’s life reminds us that grace is never meant to stop with us; it is meant to move through us. He received the grace of God, and he returned it in love, in service, and in humble generosity. His holiness was not in grand gestures alone, but in recognizing Christ in every gift and every person.

In today's readings, we encounter another moment of grace—ten men healed, ten lives restored. Yet only one returns. Only one recognizes, gives thanks, and enters into something deeper than the gift itself.

As we gather now, we might ask: how often do we receive, but fail to return? How often do we take God's gifts for granted? Let us bring these moments before the Lord, and with humble hearts, ask for mercy and forgiveness as we begin this Eucharist.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you heal us with the grace of your mercy, yet we often forget to return in gratitude: Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus, you call us into communion with you, yet we become distracted by your gifts and lose sight of the Giver: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you teach us through Saint Martin to recognize you in the poor and to return grace through loving service: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us for the times we have received his blessings without gratitude and failed to return to him with thankful hearts, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who filled Saint Martin of Tours
with the spirit of humble charity and joyful gratitude,
grant, we pray,
that we who have received countless graces from your hand
may learn to return to you with hearts full of thanksgiving and lives marked by generous 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 woman once kept a small notebook in her bag. Every evening, before going to bed, she would write down three things she was grateful for that day. Some days the list was long and joyful; other days it was simple—"a kind word," "a meal," "strength to get through." Over time, she noticed something had changed: her life had not become easier, but her heart had become fuller. She had learned the quiet power of gratitude.

In today's Gospel, ten lepers stand at a distance and cry out together, "Jesus! Master! Take pity on us." It is a deeply human prayer—the prayer of need, of vulnerability, of dependence. It is the kind of prayer we all know well. When life presses in, when suffering comes, when we feel our limits, we instinctively turn to God and ask for help.

And Jesus responds. He always does. All ten are healed. All ten receive the grace they longed for. Yet the story takes an unexpected turn: only one comes back. Only one returns, praising God at the top of his voice and falling at the feet of Jesus in thanksgiving.

The others are not condemned for asking; their prayer of petition was real and valid. But somewhere between receiving the gift and continuing on their way, they lost sight of the Giver. The gift became enough; gratitude was forgotten. It is a subtle but serious shift—when we focus so much on what we receive that we forget the One who gives.

The one who returns is a Samaritan, an outsider, someone least expected to respond rightly. And yet, he is the one who sees clearly. He recognizes that something more than physical healing has taken place. He sees God at work in Jesus, and so he gives thanks. His gratitude becomes an act of faith.

That is why Jesus says to him, "Your faith has saved you." The others were healed, but he was saved. The difference lies in relationship. Gratitude opened his heart not just to

the gift, but to the Giver. He entered into communion with God.

Saint Martin of Tours lived this same dynamic. Having received Christ's love, he did not hold onto it; he returned it. Whether by sharing his cloak or serving the poor, his life became a constant act of thanksgiving. He recognized grace—and he responded. His holiness was, at its core, a life of gratitude made visible.

We are all like those ten lepers. We have received so much—life, faith, opportunities, daily provisions, quiet graces we may not even notice. The question is not whether we have been blessed, but whether we return. Do we "turn back" like the Samaritan? Do we allow gratitude to rise within us, shaping our prayer, our outlook, our relationships?

The Eucharist we celebrate now is itself an act of thanksgiving—"eucharistia" means precisely that. Here, we are invited to become like the one who returned: to recognize God's grace, to give thanks, and to be drawn into deeper communion with Christ.

There is another story of an elderly man who, after recovering from a serious illness, made it a habit to visit the chapel every morning. Someone asked him what he did there for so long. He replied simply, "I sit and say thank you. That is enough." Perhaps that is where faith begins to deepen—not in many words, but in a heart that knows how to return.

Today, like that Samaritan, like Saint Martin, we are invited to turn back—to recognize grace, and to return it in gratitude. For in the end, it is not only *grace received* that transforms us, but *gratitude returned* that saves us.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that, having received so much from the goodness of God, we may offer back our lives in gratitude and love, and that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May these offerings, O Lord,
express the gratitude of your people,
who have received healing, mercy, and hope from your loving hand;
and grant that, following the example of Saint Martin,
we may return your gifts through lives of faithful service and charity.
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 pour out your grace upon your people,
healing our wounds, strengthening our weakness,
and drawing us into communion with your Son.

In the Gospel of salvation,
you revealed that true faith is found not only in receiving your gifts
but in returning with grateful hearts to praise your holy name.
And in Saint Martin of Tours
you have given us a living witness
of gratitude made visible through humble charity and loving service.

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

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior’s command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray with grateful hearts to the Father who
continually blesses us with his mercy and grace:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, sustained by your mercy and mindful of your many blessings, we may live always in gratitude and hope
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you healed the suffering and welcomed those who returned in faith and thanksgiving;
look not on our sins, but on the gratitude and trust 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 not only heals our wounds but calls us into deeper communion with himself.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Ten were healed, but one returned.
The healed body rejoices for a moment;
the grateful heart discovers communion.
In this Eucharist, we have received more than gifts—we have received the Giver himself.
May we leave this altar like the Samaritan and Saint Martin: turning back, giving thanks, and letting gratitude shape the way we live and love.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed by these sacred mysteries, O Lord,
we give you thanks for the abundance of your grace;
and we pray that, nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may grow in grateful hearts, steadfast faith,
and generous service to those in need.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord fill your hearts with gratitude for all his blessings. Amen.

May he teach you, like the grateful Samaritan and Saint Martin, to recognize his grace and return it through lives of charity and faith. Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by lives of gratitude, charity, and faithful service.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Grace becomes transformative when it is received with gratitude and returned in love.

12 Nov., 2026 – Thu., 32nd Week in Ordinary Time

(St Josaphat)

Phlm 7–20; Lk 17:20–25

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a traveller who arrived in a small village just before dusk. Tired and hungry, he asked a local woman if there was anything worth seeing in the place. She smiled and said, “Oh yes, but you must have the right eyes.” He walked around disappointed—dusty roads, simple homes, nothing remarkable. Only the next morning, as sunlight touched the fields and people greeted one another with warmth and kindness, did he realize what she meant: the beauty had been there all along, but he had not noticed it.

We often live like that traveller. We search for God in dramatic signs and extraordinary moments, while overlooking the quiet ways He is already present among us. We long for certainty and visible success, yet the Lord often comes gently—in kindness, reconciliation, fidelity, and love.

St. Josaphat understood this mystery well. In a time of division within the Church, he recognized that God was already at work drawing people toward unity. He became an instrument through which the hidden kingdom of God could become visible to others.

As we gather to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us ask the Lord to open the eyes of our hearts. Let us acknowledge the times we have failed to recognize His presence among us, and with sincere repentance let us now enter into the penitential act.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You reveal Your kingdom in humility and hidden grace: Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus, You are present among us in mercy, forgiveness, and peace: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, You call us to become signs of Your kingdom in the world: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God, who opens the eyes of faith to recognize His kingdom already at work among us, forgive us for the times we have overlooked His presence, strengthen us in charity and unity, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who filled Saint Josaphat with zeal for the unity of your Church and crowned him with martyrdom for the sake of your people, grant, we pray,
that, recognizing your kingdom already at work among us, we may become instruments of reconciliation, peace, and steadfast faith 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 inherited a piece of land from his father. Convinced there was nothing valuable in it, he spent years searching elsewhere for wealth—traveling far, investing poorly, always dissatisfied. Only much later did someone point out that beneath his own land lay a rich spring of fresh water. What he had been seeking everywhere else had always been right beneath his feet.

In today's Gospel, the Pharisees ask Jesus a question that sounds very familiar: "When will the kingdom of God come?" It is a question about timing, about the future, about something yet to happen. But Jesus does not answer their "when." Instead, he redirects them: "The kingdom of God is among you." In other words, what you are looking for is already here—but you are missing it.

This is often our struggle. We look at the world—with its conflicts, injustices, and suffering—and we conclude that God's kingdom must be far away. We wait for a better time, a clearer sign, a more perfect situation. Yet Jesus invites us to shift our gaze, from the future we imagine to the present we inhabit.

The kingdom of God is already among us wherever love is lived, wherever forgiveness is offered, wherever the broken are healed and the excluded are welcomed. It does not always come with spectacle. More often, it is quiet, like a seed growing in the soil or yeast working through dough—hidden, but real and powerful.

St. Josaphat understood this deeply. In a divided Church, he did not despair or simply wait for unity to come someday. He became an instrument of that unity. Through his patience, courage, and ultimately his martyrdom, he made visible a kingdom that was already present but not yet fully recognized. He helped others to see what God was already doing.

We too are called to that same vision. The Lord is present in ways that do not always "admit of observation," as Jesus says. He is present in a kind word, in a gesture of compassion, in the quiet fidelity of someone doing their

duty with love. But to recognize this, we need what the Gospel calls the eyes of faith.

When we become discouraged—about the world, the Church, or even our own lives—it may be because we are looking in the wrong way. We are asking, like the Pharisees, “When will things finally be right?” And Jesus gently answers, “Look again. See what is already unfolding.” The kingdom is not absent; it is often unnoticed. To live as disciples, then, is not only to wait for the kingdom but to recognize and cooperate with it here and now. It is to trust that God has already begun a good work among us and will bring it to completion. It is to become, in our own small ways, signs of that kingdom for others. There is another story of a woman who lit a candle during a power outage. At first, the darkness seemed overwhelming. But as her eyes adjusted, she noticed that the small flame illuminated more than she expected—her room, her table, even the faces of those around her. Others began to light their own candles, and soon the darkness was no longer dominant. The light had been small, but it was enough to begin changing everything. So it is with the kingdom of God. It may seem small, hidden, even fragile. Yet it is already among us—alive, active, and growing. If only we learn to see it, and having seen it, to let it shine through us.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that as we place these gifts upon the altar and offer ourselves to the Lord as instruments of His hidden kingdom of love, peace, and unity, our sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Most merciful God,
pour out your blessing upon these offerings,
so that, strengthened by the example of Saint Josaphat,
we may recognize Christ present among us
and faithfully cooperate in the growth of your kingdom
through lives of charity and peace.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

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

For in your wisdom you have planted the seeds of your kingdom already among us,
not in worldly power or spectacle,
but in mercy, reconciliation, and humble love.
In Saint Josaphat you gave your Church a faithful shepherd who recognized your presence even amid division and suffering and offered his life so that unity and peace might flourish among your people.

Through his witness you remind us that your kingdom is alive wherever hearts are opened to grace,
where forgiveness overcomes hostility,
and where charity reveals your hidden presence in the world.

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 divine teaching, let us pray with confidence to the Father, whose kingdom is already growing among us and within us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, 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 learn to recognize your kingdom already present among us and become signs of hope, unity, and peace for one another, as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give 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,
so that your kingdom may become visible in the love and reconciliation of your people.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who is already present among us,
quietly building his kingdom through mercy and love.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The kingdom of God often comes quietly.
It grows in hidden acts of kindness, in patient forgiveness,
in faithful hearts that continue to love even in difficulty.
Today the Lord has nourished us with His own presence.
May this Eucharist sharpen the eyes of our faith,
so that we may recognize Him already at work in our homes, our Church, and our world,
and become living signs of His kingdom for others.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this heavenly table, O Lord,
bestow on us a spirit of charity and peace,
so that, strengthened by the Body and Blood of Christ
and inspired by the witness of Saint Josaphat,
we may recognize your kingdom among us
and faithfully help it grow through lives of humble service and unity. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord open the eyes of your hearts
to recognize His kingdom already present among you.
Amen.

May He strengthen you to become instruments of peace, unity, and compassion in the world. Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, glorifying the Lord by recognizing His presence in the ordinary moments of life and making His kingdom visible through your love and service.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“The kingdom of God is already among us—not always in dramatic signs, but in every act of love, mercy, and unity. The eyes of faith learn to recognize what God is already doing.”

13 Nov., 2026 – Fri., 32nd Week in Ordinary Time

2 Jn 4–9; Lk 17:26–37

Living the ordinary with an eternal awareness of the Lord’s presence.

INTRODUCTION

A young architect once spent months designing a beautiful house. Every detail was carefully planned—the light through the windows, the harmony of the rooms, the beauty of the structure. When the house was completed, visitors admired everything they could see, yet hardly anyone asked about the architect whose vision made it possible.

Something similar can happen in our spiritual lives. We become occupied with the activities, responsibilities, and concerns of daily living, and slowly forget the Lord who sustains all things and gives meaning to every moment. We enjoy the gifts, but lose awareness of the Giver.

The Gospel today reminds us that ordinary life can either draw us closer to God or distract us from him. Eating and drinking, working and building, planning and resting—these are not obstacles to holiness. But when they fill our horizon completely, we risk forgetting the eternal presence of God in our midst.

As we gather around this altar, let us ask the Lord to awaken our hearts once again to his presence. Let us acknowledge the moments when we have lived mechanically, without prayerful awareness, and prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you walk with us in the ordinary moments of life, yet we often fail to recognize your presence:
Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus, you call us to live with hearts awake to the things that truly matter: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you invite us to place you at the centre of all we do and all we are: Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who continually calls us back from distraction and forgetfulness to the awareness of his loving presence, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

Grant us, we pray, almighty God, the grace to live each day with hearts attentive to your presence, so that amid the ordinary duties and concerns of life we may never lose sight of the eternal things that endure. Teach us, like Saint Josaphat, to remain faithful in every circumstance and to seek above all communion with you and with one another. 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 went on a hiking trip with friends. The trail led them through breathtaking scenery—mountains, rivers, and forests alive with colour. But one of them spent the entire journey looking down at his phone, tracking steps, checking messages, taking quick photos without really seeing. At the end, he said, “That was nice,” but he had missed the wonder that surrounded him.

In today’s readings, we are reminded how easy it is to miss what truly matters, even when it is right before us. The first reading speaks of the beauty and grandeur of the world, yet warns against failing to recognize the One behind it all. Creation is not meant to be an end in itself; it is a sign pointing beyond itself to the Creator.

The Gospel brings this even closer to home. Jesus speaks about the ordinary rhythm of life: eating and drinking, marrying, buying and selling, planting and building. These are not bad things—they are necessary and good. They are the very fabric of human living. But Jesus warns that we can become so absorbed in them that we lose sight of the deeper reality.

He recalls the days of Noah and Lot—times when people were living ordinary lives, unaware that something decisive was about to happen. Their routines were not the problem; their lack of awareness was. They lived as if the visible world was all there was, and so they were unprepared when everything changed.

This Gospel is not meant to frighten us but to awaken us. Jesus is not asking us to withdraw from life, but to live it with a different depth. The “day of the Son of Man” is not only a future event; it is also a present reality. The risen Lord is already among us, quietly present in the midst of our daily activities.

That means every moment carries a hidden invitation. The tasks we perform, the people we meet, the responsibilities we carry—all of these can become places of encounter with the Lord. The ground we stand on, as the reflection says, is always holy ground, if only we learn to recognize it.

Saint Josaphat understood this well. In the midst of his ministry, tensions, and eventual martyrdom, he did not separate the sacred from the ordinary. He allowed God to be present in everything, and because of that, he could remain faithful even when life became difficult and uncertain. His awareness of God gave him clarity about what truly mattered.

We, too, are called to keep that sense of proportion. The things of this world are important, but they are not ultimate. When we keep the Lord at the centre, everything else finds its proper place. Without him, even good things can become distractions; with him, even the simplest tasks can become meaningful.

There is a story of an elderly woman who spent her days doing very ordinary things—cooking, cleaning, tending a small garden. When someone asked her how she stayed so peaceful, she replied, “I do everything with God in mind. When I cook, I cook for him. When I rest, I rest in him. So nothing is ever just ordinary.” In her quiet way, she had discovered the secret of the Gospel: to live the ordinary with an awareness of the eternal.

And that is the invitation given to us today—not to escape our daily lives, but to see them differently. To recognize that the Lord is already here, already present, already calling. If we learn to notice him now, his coming will never take us by surprise.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered with hearts attentive to the Lord who is always present among us, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour, O Lord, upon the offerings we place before you, and grant that through these sacred mysteries we may learn to recognize your presence in the ordinary moments of life and keep our hearts fixed on the things of heaven. 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 created the world and filled it with signs of your goodness and love. In the ordinary rhythm of human life, you continue to reveal your presence and invite your people to walk in communion with you. Though we are often distracted by passing concerns, you patiently call us to lift our hearts toward the things that endure forever.

In your Son, Jesus Christ, you entered fully into our human experience, sanctifying the daily work, joys, and struggles of life, and teaching us to remain watchful for your kingdom already present among us. Through the witness of Saint Josaphat, you have shown us that faithfulness to your presence gives courage, unity, and peace even amid suffering and uncertainty.

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

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

With confidence in the Father who remains close to us in every moment of life and who teaches us to seek first his kingdom, let us pray in the words our Savior gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, and graciously grant peace in our days, that amid the distractions and anxieties of this passing world we may remain attentive to your presence and steadfast in hope as we await the blessed coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you remain present among your people in the midst of daily life and call us to live in communion with you and with one another: 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 comes to awaken our hearts to the presence of the eternal within the ordinary moments of life. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you come to us quietly, hidden beneath simple signs of bread and wine, reminding us that your presence is often found in what seems ordinary. Teach us to recognize you not only in this sacred moment, but also in the responsibilities, encounters, and hidden duties of daily life. May our hearts remain awake to you, so that nothing in our lives is ever merely routine, but always an opportunity to walk with you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having been nourished by these holy gifts, we pray, O Lord, that through this sacrament you may deepen within us an awareness of your constant presence, so that, living faithfully amid the ordinary duties of life, we may always seek the things that lead us to eternal communion with you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord help you to recognize his presence in the ordinary moments of each day. Amen.
May he keep your hearts attentive to the things that truly matter and strengthen you in faithful living. 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 living each moment with hearts awake to his presence.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Nothing is ever just ordinary when God is kept at the centre.”

14 Nov., 2026 – Sat., 32nd Week in Ordinary Time

3 Jn 5–8; Lk 18:1–8

Faith that refuses to lose heart is born of prayer that refuses to stop.

INTRODUCTION

A man once planted a small tree in his backyard. For months, nothing seemed to happen. The soil looked the same, the branch remained bare, and neighbours quietly suggested that perhaps the tree was dead. Yet each morning, the man continued to water it. “Roots are growing,” he would say, even though he could not see them. Then one day, almost unexpectedly, tiny green shoots appeared, and in time the tree flourished.

Much of life feels like that hidden season. We pray, we hope, we try to remain faithful—but nothing seems to change. Situations remain unresolved, wounds unhealed, injustices unanswered. In such moments, the temptation quietly creeps in: to give up, to stop praying, to lose heart.

The Gospel today speaks directly into that experience. Jesus tells us a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. He knows how easily discouragement can take root in us, especially when we feel small before the weight of the world.

As we gather now, we might ask ourselves: where have I begun to lose heart? Where has my prayer grown weak or silent? Let us bring those places before the Lord, asking pardon for the times we have doubted his care and withdrawn our trust…

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you teach us to pray always and never lose heart: Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus, you remain faithful even when our trust grows weak: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you strengthen those who persevere in hope and prayer: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us the times we have grown weary in faith, doubted his care, and allowed discouragement to silence our prayer, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
you never fail to hear the cries of those who trust in you;
strengthen within us a faith that perseveres in prayer
and a hope that does not grow weary in times of waiting.
Teach us to remain steadfast in love and faithful in trust,
so that, when your Son comes,
he may find our hearts watchful and enduring in faith.
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 woman who visited a government office every single week for nearly a year, seeking help for a long-delayed claim. Each time she was told, “Come back next week.” Many would have given up. But she didn’t. She kept showing up, calmly, firmly, persistently—until finally, someone took notice, and her case was resolved. What persistence could not achieve in a day, it achieved over time.

Jesus’ parable today presents a similar figure: a widow who refuses to give up. She stands before a judge who neither fears God nor respects people. The odds are entirely against her. She has no status, no influence, no leverage. And yet, she has one thing—persistence. She keeps coming, keeps asking, keeps trusting that justice must be done.

What is striking is that Jesus holds up this widow as a model of faith. Not because she is powerful, but because she refuses to lose heart. Her strength lies not in her

position, but in her perseverance. She embodies a faith that does not collapse under delay, rejection, or silence.

Jesus makes it clear that God is not like the unjust judge. If even a corrupt judge can eventually respond, how much more will God—who is just, loving, and attentive—hear the cries of his people? The issue, then, is not God's willingness to act, but our willingness to remain faithful while we wait.

And that is where prayer becomes essential. Prayer is not simply asking; it is staying. It is the steady turning of the heart toward God, even when answers seem delayed. In prayer, we are strengthened, often in ways we do not immediately see—like roots growing beneath the surface.

We all know how easy it is to lose heart. When prayers seem unanswered, when injustice lingers, when faith feels fragile, discouragement can quietly take over. Yet Jesus challenges us with a question that echoes deeply: *"When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"* Will he find a faith that endures, or one that has quietly given up?

The widow reminds us that faith is not a fleeting feeling but a steady decision. It is choosing to trust, again and again, even when circumstances do not change. It is returning to prayer, not because we see immediate results, but because we believe God is listening and at work.

The first reading today, from the third letter of John, speaks of faithfulness in action—of quietly supporting others, of doing good even when it goes unnoticed. This too is part of persevering faith: remaining steadfast in love, even without recognition or reward.

There is a final story of a monk who, for many years, prayed for peace in a troubled region. Decades passed, and little seemed to improve. When asked why he continued, he simply said, "Because prayer is not only about changing the world—it is about not letting the world change my trust in God."

That is the kind of faith Jesus is seeking: a faith that refuses to lose heart, because it is rooted in a prayer that refuses to stop.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that our steadfast faith and these gifts we place before the Lord may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord our God, receive these offerings
and deepen within us the grace of persevering prayer.
When we grow weary or discouraged,
teach us to place our trust more firmly in you,
so that our lives may bear witness
to a faith that endures with patience 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 every age you remain near
to those who call upon you in faith.
When your people grow weary,
you strengthen them with hope;
when they struggle in darkness and delay,
you invite them to persevere in prayer
and to trust in your faithful love.
In your Son, Jesus Christ,
you have shown us the path of steadfast faith,
teaching us never to lose heart
but to place our confidence in your saving care.
Through him, you continue to sustain your Church
as she waits in hope for the fullness of your kingdom.
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

With confidence in the Father who hears the prayers of his children and strengthens those who persevere in faith, let us pray in the words our Savior gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and strengthen us when discouragement and doubt weigh heavily upon us.
Keep our hearts faithful in prayer and steadfast in hope,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us never to lose heart
and to trust in the faithful love of the Father.
Look not on our moments of weakness and discouragement,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who strengthens all who persevere in faith
and nourishes those who continue to trust in him.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, many times we ask, wait, and wonder if you hear us. Yet today you remind us that faithful prayer is never wasted. Like roots hidden beneath the earth, your grace is quietly at work within us. Keep us close to you, steady in trust, patient in hope, and faithful in love, until your promises are fulfilled in your time.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these holy mysteries, O Lord,
may we persevere in faith with hearts that do not lose courage. Strengthen us through this sacrament
to remain constant in prayer, steadfast in love,
and trusting in your providence, even in times of waiting and trial. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord strengthen your hearts in every time of discouragement and keep you faithful in prayer and constant in hope. Amen.

May he teach you to trust in his loving care
even when answers seem delayed or hidden from sight.
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 a faith that perseveres and a prayer that never gives up.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Faith grows strongest not when everything changes quickly, but when we continue to pray and trust even in the hidden seasons. A heart that refuses to stop praying will slowly learn not to lose hope.