15 Nov. 2026 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prov 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31; 1 Thess 5:1–6; Mt 25:14–30

INTRODUCTION

A man once bought an expensive set of tools and carefully arranged them in his garage. He polished them, protected them from rust, and proudly showed them to visitors. Years later, someone noticed that the tools still looked brand new. “You must take great care of them,” they said. The man replied, “Of course. I never use them.” The tragedy was obvious: tools preserved perfectly, but never used for the purpose for which they were made.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus warns us against living that way spiritually. God has entrusted each of us with gifts, abilities, opportunities, faith, love, time, compassion, prayer, and service—not to be hidden away in fear, but to be used fruitfully for his kingdom.

The Lord does not ask us to be someone else. He simply asks us to be faithful with what we have received. Whether our gift seems large or small, visible or hidden, active or prayerful, each one has value in the eyes of God. Even the quiet prayer of the elderly and sick can bear immense fruit in the Church.

But often fear holds us back: fear of failure, fear of criticism, fear that we have too little to offer. So, before we celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us acknowledge the times we buried God’s gifts instead of placing them at the service of others, and ask the Lord for mercy and courage.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us out of fear into the joy of fruitful discipleship: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you entrust each of us with gifts meant to bring light and hope to others: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you invite us to share in your joy by serving faithfully with what we have received: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God free us from the fear that buries grace, forgive us our sins, strengthen us to use faithfully the gifts he has entrusted to us, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE GLORIA

Because God has entrusted us with the riches of his grace and calls us to share in the joy of his kingdom, let us now raise our voices with confidence and praise as we sing: Glory to God in the highest…

COLLECT

O God, who entrust to your people the treasures of your grace and call us to bear fruit for your kingdom,
free us from every fear that keeps us from serving you wholeheartedly, that, faithful in using the gifts you have given us, we may walk as children of the light
and one day enter fully into the joy of our Lord.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A young violinist once entered a music competition. She was gifted, but terribly nervous. Before going on stage, she whispered to her teacher, “What if I fail?” The old teacher smiled and handed her the violin. “This instrument was not made to stay in its case,” he said. “It was made to sing.”

That is the heart of today’s Gospel.

Jesus tells us the parable of the talents—not merely about money, but about life itself. About gifts. About possibilities. About the joy or sadness that comes from using or burying what God has entrusted to us.

And behind the parable lies a very important question: How does one become a joyful Christian?

Because, if we are honest, many Christians do not always look joyful. We proclaim a “Good News,” yet sometimes we carry ourselves as if faith were a burden instead of a gift. There can be so much heaviness, fear, complaining, and discouragement. Today’s Gospel asks us: What is the secret of a joyful Christian life?

Twice in the Gospel the master says:
“Come, share your master’s joy.”

Notice that Jesus does not simply speak about duty or obligation. He speaks about joy. The servants who used their talents enter into joy. The servant who buried his talent ends up in darkness.

Why?

Because joy comes when our lives become fruitful for God and for others.

The parable begins with a master going on a long journey. In the language of the Gospel, this points to Christ himself. After his Ascension, Jesus is no longer physically visible among us as before. Yet before departing, he entrusts everything to his servants.

Pause there for a moment.

The Lord of heaven and earth entrusts his work to us. He has no other hands but ours.

There is a famous crucifix in a church in Münster, Germany. During the Second World War, a bomb blast destroyed the arms of the crucified Christ. After the war they decided not to replace the arms. Instead, beneath the crucifix they wrote these words:

“I have no other hands but yours.”

What a staggering thought. God chooses to need us. Through our hands he comforts. Through our words he encourages. Through our generosity he provides. Through our compassion he heals wounds.

The blind Bartimaeus once received sight directly from Jesus. The paralytic was healed by Jesus. The woman caught in adultery received dignity from Jesus. But today Christ continues his work through his Church, through ordinary believers like us.

That realization alone should fill us with dignity and joy. We are not spectators in God’s kingdom; we are collaborators.

Pope John XXIII understood this deeply. When he was elected pope, many expected very little from him. He was

elderly and frail, considered merely a temporary figure. Yet this gentle old man became one of the most beloved and influential popes in modern history. Instead of merely preserving the Church like a museum, he opened windows of renewal through the Second Vatican Council. He once said:

“We are not on earth to guard a museum, but to cultivate a flourishing garden of life.”

That is exactly what the first two servants in today’s Gospel did. They cultivated life. They risked something. They used what they had received.

The third servant did not.

And why not?

Fear.

“I was afraid,” he says.

Fear is the real tragedy in the Gospel. Not lack of ability. Not lack of opportunity. Fear.

The master actually gives to each servant “according to his ability.” God is not unfair. He does not overload us. He knows our strengths and our limitations. He knows our circumstances, our struggles, our family duties, our health, our age, our personality.

God never asks from us what he has not first enabled us to do.

That means we should stop comparing ourselves with others. One receives five talents, another two, another one. Comparison either leads to discouragement—“I have so little”—or pride—“I have more than others.” Both destroy joy.

God does not ask me to be someone else. He asks me to be faithful with what I have received.

A teacher may not be a musician. A mechanic may not be an administrator. Someone gifted in leadership may not be gifted in listening. But every person carries some grace meant for the good of others.

And the danger is not having too little. The danger is burying what we have.

Sometimes we bury gifts because we think they are insignificant.
“I can only sing a little.”
“I can only pray.”
“I can only encourage people.”
“I am too old now.”

But the Gospel says otherwise.

Perhaps someone has a beautiful voice. Why not use it in the choir?
Perhaps someone reads well. Why not become a lector?
Perhaps someone is organized. Why not help coordinate parish activities?

Perhaps someone once worked with youth but stopped because life became busy. Maybe now the Lord is calling again.

And what about the elderly, the sick, the homebound? Sometimes they ask sadly, “What can we still do?”

A great deal.

One priest told the story of an elderly man he visited every month with Holy Communion. The man could barely walk and never left his house. Yet every visit turned into an interrogation about parish life.

“How many children are preparing for First Communion?”
“How is the choir doing?”
“Did you find volunteers for the parish council?”
“Are there troubled families who need prayer?”

Finally the priest asked him, “Why do you want to know all this?”

The old man replied, “So that I can pray for them.”

Then he showed the priest his “prayer book.” It was not a printed devotional book, but an old worn school notebook. On each page were names, intentions, and dates. Hundreds of names. Beside many entries was a final word:

“Answered.”

There was the name of a parish priest:
“That he may rediscover joy in his ministry.”
Years later beside it: “Answered.”

There was the name of his son who had left the Church.
For fifteen years he prayed daily:
“That he may return to faith.”
Then one day he wrote: “Answered.”

That elderly man, hidden in a small room, was perhaps one of the most active members of the parish. He transformed his suffering and loneliness into intercession. He had discovered the joy of using his talent.

And that is the great secret of Christian joy:
not success, not applause, but fruitfulness.

The servant who buried his talent saw everything in darkness. People who bury their gifts often become bitter, critical, negative, always complaining about the Church, society, or others. But people who give themselves generously usually radiate joy.

Saint Paul says today in the second reading:
“You are children of the light.”

And Nelson Mandela once wrote words that echo today’s Gospel beautifully:

“As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.”

Courage is contagious. So is fear.

Jesus repeatedly tells his disciples:
“Do not be afraid.”

Fear says: “What if I fail?”
Faith says: “What if God can work through even me?”

At the end of life, God will probably not ask us, “Why were you not more successful?” He may simply ask:
“Did you use what I gave you?” Amen.

INVITATION TO THE CREDO

United in the faith we have received and entrusted with the mission of witnessing to Christ in the world, let us now profess that faith together.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (for private meditation only)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth,
who has entrusted this world to our care
and filled every human heart with gifts and possibilities.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who became man and lived among us,
healing the wounded, encouraging the fearful,
and revealing the loving face of the Father.
He called ordinary people to continue his work
and taught us not to bury our lives in fear,
but to offer them generously in love.
He suffered, died, and rose again
so that we might live as children of the light
and share in the joy of his kingdom.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with grace,
awakens our hidden gifts,
and gives courage to serve faithfully according to our abilities.
Through the Spirit, the Church becomes
the hands, voice, and compassion of Christ in the world.

I believe that every gift is meant for the good of others,
that every act of love bears fruit in God’s kingdom,
and that even hidden prayer and quiet sacrifice
have great value before God.

I believe in the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting,
where all who have served the Lord faithfully
will hear those joyful words:
“Come, share your master’s joy.” Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours,
offered with grateful hearts and with the desire to place all
our gifts at the service of God’s kingdom, may be
acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, receive the offerings we place upon your altar
and transform them by your grace,
so that, strengthened by these sacred mysteries,
we may use faithfully the gifts you have entrusted to us
for the service of your people and the glory of your name.
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 have filled your people with many gifts
and entrusted to each according to your wisdom and love.
In your Son, Jesus Christ,
you have shown us that true greatness is found
not in preserving life out of fear,
but in offering it generously for others.

Through him you call us from darkness into light,
from hesitation into courage,
from self-protection into joyful service.
Even the smallest act of love,
the quietest prayer,
and the hidden sacrifices of the weak and the elderly
become fruitful in your kingdom
when offered with faith.

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

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

God has entrusted us with the treasure of being his children and calls us to live not in fear but in confidence and love. With trust in our heavenly Father, we pray:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from the fear that prevents us from using the gifts you have given us;
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you told your disciples, “Do not be afraid,”
and called them to walk as children of the light;
look not on our fears, our hesitations, and the times we have buried your gifts,
but on the faith of your Church,
which longs to serve you with courage and joy.
Graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who calls us not to bury our lives in fear
but to offer ourselves fruitfully in love.
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 every grace received is meant to be shared. Teach us not to compare ourselves with others,
nor to hide our gifts in fear,
but to serve with courage, generosity, and joy.

May our hands become your hands,
our words your encouragement, our prayers your consolation, and our lives a light for others.

Let us never forget: you do not ask us to be successful in the eyes of the world, only faithful in love.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the pledge of eternal life,
we humbly pray, O Lord, that what you have entrusted to us in these sacred mysteries
may strengthen us to serve you faithfully with joyful hearts and to bear lasting fruit in the lives of others.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you with courage to use the gifts he has given you. Amen.
May he free you from fear, discouragement, and comparison. Amen.
May he help you walk as children of the light,
fruitful in love and joyful in service. Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by using faithfully the gifts he has entrusted to you.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

God will not ask whether we had many talents or few.
He will ask whether we used with love what he placed into our hands.

16 Nov. 2026 – Monday, 33rd Week in Ordinary Time

(St Margaret of Scotland / St Gertrude the Great)

Rev 1:1–4; 2:1–5; Lk 18:35–43

Persistent faith opens our eyes to Christ's merciful presence.

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a woman who kept a small lamp burning in her window every night. When asked why, she said it was for her son who had gone far away and had not written in years. "If he ever comes back," she said, "I want him to know there is still a place for him." People told her it was useless, even foolish—but she kept the light burning. Hope, when it is real, refuses to be extinguished by discouragement.

In a similar way, the saints we remember today lived with that steady and persevering faith. St Margaret of Scotland served Christ faithfully through charity and care for the poor, while St Gertrude the Great remained constant in prayer, seeking always a deeper vision of the Lord. Their lives remind us that faith perseveres because it trusts that Christ never ignores the sincere cry of the heart.

In today's Gospel, the blind beggar refuses to let the crowd silence him. Though rebuked by many, he cries out even louder, convinced that Jesus will hear him. His persistence becomes the doorway to healing, vision, and discipleship. As we begin this Eucharist, let us acknowledge the times when we have allowed fear, discouragement, or spiritual blindness to weaken our faith. Let us ask the Lord to open our eyes once more to his merciful presence, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you hear the cry of all who call upon you with faith: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you open the eyes of those blinded by fear, sin, and discouragement: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to follow you with hearts full of gratitude and praise: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us, strengthen our weak and hesitant faith, open our eyes to his merciful presence, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

COLLECT

Merciful and ever-living God,
you never fail to hear the persistent cry of those who seek you with sincere hearts.
Open the eyes of our faith,
that we may recognize your presence in our struggles,
serve you faithfully in our neighbour,
and follow your Son with grateful and persevering hearts.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

HOMILY

There is a story told of a young boy in a crowded marketplace who lost sight of his father. Surrounded by noise and strangers, he began to shout his father's name. Some people told him to be quiet, others ignored him, but he kept calling out until finally his father heard him and came running. That persistent cry made all the difference.

In today's Gospel, we meet a man very much like that child. The blind beggar sits by the roadside as Jesus passes by. When he hears that it is Jesus, he cries out, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" It is a simple prayer, but it is bold, public, and persistent. Even when the crowd rebukes him and tells him to be silent, he refuses. Instead, he cries out all the more.

This man teaches us something essential about faith. True faith does not remain hidden when it encounters resistance. It becomes stronger, more insistent. In a world where faith is often expected to stay private or quiet, the

blind man stands as a witness: he will not allow others to come between himself and Jesus.

We can imagine how easily he could have given up. After all, he was alone, vulnerable, and dependent on others. Yet his need became his strength. His blindness led him to seek Jesus with determination. In the same way, our own weaknesses and struggles can become the very place where we encounter the Lord—if we bring them to him with honesty and persistence.

What is striking is how Jesus responds. Though he is on his way to Jerusalem, focused on his mission, he stops. He gives the man his full attention and asks, “What do you want me to do for you?” It is a question of dignity and love. Jesus does not dismiss him as the crowd does; he listens, he engages, he responds.

“Lord, let me see again.” That prayer goes beyond physical sight. It is also our prayer—for clarity, for truth, for the ability to see God at work in our lives. Like the blind man, we too can suffer from a kind of spiritual blindness, seeing only what we want or what the world conditions us to see.

The saints we celebrate today understood this well. St Gertrude the Great constantly prayed for deeper vision—not of the eyes, but of the heart—so as to know Christ more intimately. St Margaret of Scotland, amid the responsibilities of her royal life, kept her gaze fixed on Christ by serving those in need. Both remind us that to “see” rightly is to recognize Christ in prayer and in others.

The blind man’s story does not end with his healing. The Gospel tells us that he followed Jesus, praising God. His prayer of petition becomes a prayer of praise. This is the journey of every disciple: from need, to encounter, to gratitude, and finally to following.

There is another story of an elderly man who had been blind for many years and underwent a successful operation late in life. When the bandages were removed, he wept—not just because he could see, but because he could finally behold the faces of those he loved. “I had forgotten how

beautiful they are," he said. Faith does something similar for us. It opens our eyes not only to God, but to the beauty of his presence in everyday life.

Today's Gospel invites us to cry out with that same persistence: "Lord, have mercy on me. Let me see again." And if we do, with sincere and persevering hearts, we will discover that Jesus still stops, still listens, and still opens our eyes—leading us to follow him with lives full of praise.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that through this sacrifice, offered with trusting and persevering hearts, we may learn to recognize Christ more clearly and follow him more faithfully, and that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these gifts offered by your people
who cry out to you with faith and confidence.
As you opened the eyes of the blind beggar through the mercy of Christ,
so open the eyes of our hearts through this sacred offering,
that we may recognize your grace at work in our lives
and follow you with lives filled with praise.
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 turn away
from those who call upon you in faith.
When your Son walked among us,
he listened to the cry of the poor and the forgotten,
opened the eyes of the blind,

and revealed your compassionate love to all who sought him with trust.

In him you teach us
that persistent faith is never unheard,
and that hearts opened by grace
are led from darkness into light,
from pleading into praise,
and from fear into faithful discipleship.

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

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to pray with the confidence of those who know
that the Father always hears the sincere cry of his children:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that with eyes opened by faith and hearts strengthened by hope, we may persevere in following Christ through every trial as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you stopped to hear the cry of the blind beggar and filled him with the peace that comes from healing and hope.
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 hears the cry of those who seek him with faith and opens our eyes to his saving presence. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, like the blind beggar, we have called out to you, and you have not passed us by.
In this Eucharist you have touched our blindness,
opened our hearts, and reminded us once again of the beauty of your presence.
Teach us to keep calling upon you with persevering faith,
to recognize you in the poor and forgotten,
and to follow you each day with grateful and joyful hearts.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the sacrament of salvation,
we pray, O Lord,
that through this holy mystery
you may deepen our vision of faith
and strengthen us to follow Christ faithfully in lives of charity and praise.
May we never grow weary in seeking your mercy
or hesitant in proclaiming your goodness.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord Jesus,
who opened the eyes of the blind man and listened to his persistent cry, strengthen your faith, deepen your trust, and fill your hearts with his peace. Amen.
May he teach you to recognize his presence in prayer, in the Eucharist, and in those who are in need. 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 steadfast faith, grateful praise, and compassionate service.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Persistent faith never cries out in vain.
When we refuse to let discouragement silence our prayer,
Christ stops, listens, opens our eyes, and leads us to follow him with hearts full of praise.

17 Nov. 2026 – Tuesday, 33rd Week in Ordinary Time

(St Elizabeth of Hungary)

Rev 3:1–6, 14–22; Lk 19:1–10

When we seek the Lord, we discover that He has already been seeking us.

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a successful businessman who had everything one could desire—wealth, recognition, comfort—yet he found himself unable to sleep at night. One evening, while walking aimlessly through the city, he passed a small chapel with its doors open. Drawn by something he could not explain, he stepped inside and sat in silence. Later he would say, “I thought I was just wandering in, but in truth, Someone was waiting for me there.”

This quiet restlessness of the human heart is something many people experience, even if they cannot name it. We can appear full on the outside and yet feel an emptiness within. The Book of Revelation today speaks of such a condition—the illusion of being rich while being, in truth, spiritually poor. It is a poverty that only God can fill.

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, whose memorial we celebrate today, understood this deeply. Though she lived in great material wealth as a princess, her heart was not attached to riches. She recognized the deeper hunger within and allowed God to lead her into a life of radical charity and simplicity, serving the poor in whom she encountered Christ.

As we gather now, we too come before the Lord with our own mix of fullness and emptiness, strength and weakness. Let us ask for the grace to recognize where we have been self-sufficient and where we have closed the door to Him who stands knocking. And so, we prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries by calling to mind our sins.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You seek us even when we wander far from You: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus, You call us by name and invite Yourself into the house of our hearts: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, You transform sinners through the power of Your merciful love: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us for the times we have resisted His call, trusted too much in ourselves, and failed to welcome Christ with joyful hearts; may He open our eyes to recognize that He has been seeking us all along, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who never cease to seek those who wander
and who rejoice to dwell within humble hearts,
grant that, like Zacchaeus and Saint Elizabeth of Hungary,
we may recognize our deepest poverty before you
and welcome your Son with joy and generosity.
May our encounter with Christ transform our lives
and lead us to serve you in our brothers and sisters with 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

There is a story told of a child who got lost in a crowded marketplace. Frightened and overwhelmed, he tried to find his way back, weaving through the crowd, calling out for his parents. What he did not realize was that his father had already seen him from a distance and was making his way toward him. The moment they found each other was not just the child finding the father, but the father finding the child.

This image helps us enter into today’s Gospel. Zacchaeus is a man searching—curious, restless, perhaps even

dissatisfied despite his wealth. He climbs a sycamore tree, an undignified act for someone of his status, simply to catch a glimpse of Jesus. There is something admirable in this determination: he refuses to let obstacles or appearances stop him from seeking.

Yet the deeper truth of the story is this: Zacchaeus is not only seeking Jesus; Jesus is seeking Zacchaeus. He stops, looks up, calls him by name, and says, “I must stay at your house today.” What Zacchaeus thought would be a distant glance becomes a personal encounter. The seeker discovers he is already found.

In the first reading, the church in Laodicea fails to recognize its own poverty. It believes itself to be rich and in need of nothing, yet it is spiritually empty. Zacchaeus, by contrast, is aware—perhaps only vaguely—of his deeper need. That awareness becomes the doorway through which grace enters. It is often our restlessness, not our comfort, that leads us to God.

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary lived this truth in a remarkable way. Though surrounded by luxury, she recognized that true richness lies in love of God and neighbor. She did not cling to her privileges but used them as a means to serve others, especially the poor. Like Zacchaeus, once touched by grace, she responded with generosity and transformation.

The reaction of the crowd in the Gospel is also telling. They grumble because Jesus chooses to stay with a sinner. They see only Zacchaeus’ past and his faults. Jesus, however, sees something deeper—the longing, the possibility, the person beneath the label. Where others see a sinner, Jesus sees someone worth seeking and saving.

This reminds us that we, too, can sometimes stand in the crowd—quick to judge, slow to understand. Or we may see ourselves only through the lens of our failures. But the Lord always looks deeper. He sees the seeker within us, even when that seeking is weak or hidden. And He continues to call us by name.

Zacchaeus' response is immediate and concrete. He welcomes Jesus with joy and resolves to make restitution and to give generously to the poor. A genuine encounter with Christ always bears fruit. It changes how we see, how we act, and how we live. Grace does not leave us as we are; it draws out the best in us.

There is another simple story of a woman who, after many years away from the Church, one day felt an urge to step inside during a weekday Mass. She said later, "I thought I was the one deciding to return, but now I know—I was being called back all along." Like Zacchaeus, like Saint Elizabeth, like each one of us, she discovered that behind her searching was a greater love already at work.

Today, the Lord passes by us as well. He looks up, calls us by name, and desires to enter the house of our hearts. If we open the door, we will discover that what we were seeking has already been seeking us.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered with hearts seeking the Lord who first seeks us, may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord our God,
as we place these offerings upon your altar,
teach us to open the doors of our hearts to Christ,
who calls each of us by name
and desires to dwell among his people.
May this sacrifice free us from selfishness and pride
and make us generous in charity and rich in faith,
after the example of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary.
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 merciful love you never cease to seek those who are lost or to call sinners back to yourself.
In your Son, you looked upon Zacchaeus with compassion, entered his home, and transformed his heart with saving grace.

You continue even now to stand at the door and knock, inviting us into communion with you. Through the witness of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, you reveal that true riches are found not in earthly wealth but in generous love and humble 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: **Holy, Holy, Holy**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, let us pray to the Father who continually seeks His children and calls each of us by name:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from the blindness that keeps us from recognizing your presence
and the pride that closes our hearts to your grace.
Graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you looked upon Zacchaeus not with condemnation but with mercy, and by entering his home you brought him peace and salvation.
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 seeks and saves the lost.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, You have entered once more into the house of our hearts. You know our hidden restlessness, our fears, and our longing for meaning. Thank You for seeking us before we ever thought to seek You.
Like Zacchaeus, may we welcome You with joy.
Like Saint Elizabeth, may we discover that true riches are found in loving You and serving others.
Remain with us, Lord, and transform us by Your presence.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these sacred mysteries, we humbly ask you, O Lord, that we who have welcomed Christ in this sacrament may also welcome him in the poor, the forgotten, and the searching. May the grace we have received today transform our hearts and make us faithful witnesses to your merciful and seeking love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord Jesus, who called Zacchaeus by name
and entered his house with mercy and peace,
draw you ever closer to Himself
and fill your hearts with the joy of being found by His love.
May Saint Elizabeth of Hungary inspire you
to seek true riches in charity, humility, and service to the poor.
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 lives transformed through His merciful love.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The greatest discovery of the spiritual life is this: long before we began searching for God, God was already searching for us.

18 Nov. 2026 – Wed., 33rd Week in Ordinary Time

Rev 4:1–11; Lk 19:11–28

"Courageous love makes fruitful what God has entrusted to us."

INTRODUCTION

A young teacher once received her first assignment in a struggling school. On her desk lay a stack of worn-out textbooks and a class list of students already labelled "difficult." For a moment she felt overwhelmed. She could simply do the minimum and pass through the year unnoticed, or she could risk investing herself fully in the lives before her. She chose to give herself generously, and in time both she and her students were transformed.

Life places similar choices before us. God entrusts us with gifts, opportunities, responsibilities, and relationships, asking not for perfection but for courageous love. Yet fear often tempts us to hold back, to bury our gifts instead of offering them.

Today's Gospel reminds us that the Lord has placed something precious into every human heart. Faith, kindness, wisdom, compassion, time, and abilities are not meant to remain hidden but to become fruitful in love and service.

As we come before the Lord now, let us acknowledge the times when fear has limited our generosity, when hesitation has silenced our witness, and when we failed to use well what God entrusted to us. Let us ask for mercy and prepare ourselves for the penitential act.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us to live with courage and trust in your grace: Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus, you entrust us with gifts meant to bear fruit in love and service: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you strengthen fearful hearts and lead us into faithful living: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us for the times we have hidden our gifts in fear and failed to love generously, strengthen us with courage and faithful hearts, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
who have entrusted to your people
the gifts of grace and the riches of your kingdom,
grant us the courage to serve you faithfully
with hearts free from fear,
so that what we have received from your goodness
may bear abundant fruit in love and mercy.

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 small piece of land from his father. Unsure of what to do and afraid of making mistakes, he decided to leave it untouched. Years passed, and while others cultivated their land and bore fruit, his remained barren. What was given as a gift became, through fear, an empty field.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells a similar story. A nobleman entrusts his servants with resources and expects them to use these gifts well during his absence. Two servants act with initiative and courage, and their efforts bear fruit. But the third servant, afraid of failure and of his master, hides the gift away and does nothing.

This parable speaks directly to our lives. Each of us has been entrusted with something—our abilities, our time, our relationships, our faith. Above all, we have received the greatest gift: Christ himself, full of grace and truth. The question is not whether we have received, but what we do with what we have received.

Fear, however, can quietly shape our decisions. Fear of failure can lead us to inaction. Fear of judgment can silence our witness. Fear of making mistakes can keep us from trying at all. The third servant represents that temptation—to preserve rather than to risk, to hide rather than to serve.

Yet Jesus consistently says, “Do not be afraid.” In the Gospel, fear is often the opposite of faith. When fear dominates, love is stifled. But when love takes root, fear begins to lose its power. As Scripture reminds us, perfect love casts out fear.

The parable also reminds us that we live in a time of waiting—not passive waiting, but active, creative fidelity. The kingdom of God is not yet fully revealed, and this in-between time is entrusted to us as an opportunity. It is the time to serve, to build, to give, to love with what we have been given here and now.

The first reading from Revelation lifts our eyes even higher. It shows us the throne of God, the One who alone is worthy of glory and power. When we recognize that all we have comes from God and returns to God, our lives themselves become an offering—an act of worship expressed not only in prayer but in action.

God does not ask us to be flawless or always successful. What God desires is faithfulness—hearts willing to try, to risk, to love, even if imperfectly. A life that risks loving will always be more fruitful than a life that hides in fear.
There is a story of a woman who loved to sing but was always too shy to join the church choir. For years she sat in the pew, silent. One day, encouraged by a friend, she finally stepped forward. Her voice trembled at first, imperfect but sincere. Over time, she not only found her voice but inspired others to do the same. What changed was not her talent, but her courage to offer it.
In the end, the Lord does not ask whether we protected what we were given, but whether we used it in love. And so, each day becomes a new chance to take what God has placed in our hands and let courageous love make it fruitful.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that as we place these gifts upon the altar, we may also offer to God our lives, our talents, and our willingness to serve with courageous love, that our sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord our God, receive these offerings
and teach us to use faithfully all that you have entrusted to us. May this sacrifice strengthen us to serve you with generous hearts, so that our lives may bear lasting fruit for the coming of your kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For you have entrusted your people
with the gifts of your grace
and called us to serve you faithfully in this world.
You strengthen us not to live in fear
but to walk in confidence and love,
so that our lives may become fruitful offerings
for the building up of your kingdom.
In Christ your Son, you show us that true greatness is
found not in preserving ourselves,
but in giving ourselves generously for others.
Through him you renew our hearts
and make us courageous in faith and steadfast in hope.
And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy …

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior’s command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray with confidence to the Father who calls us to trust him completely and to use our lives generously in the service of his kingdom:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and free our hearts from the fears
that keep us from loving and serving generously.
Graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us not to hide in fear
but to live with courage, trust, and generous love.
Look not on our hesitations and failures,
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 strengthens fearful hearts
and nourishes all who desire to serve with faithful love.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Lord never asks whether our offering was perfect,
only whether it was given in love.
What we place in God’s hands, however small or trembling,
becomes fruitful through grace.
Strengthened by this Eucharist,
may we leave behind fear and live courageously,
using every gift entrusted to us
for the glory of God and the good of others.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having shared in these sacred mysteries,
we pray, O Lord, that through the power of this Eucharist
you may strengthen us
to live with faithful and courageous hearts.
May the gifts we have received from you
bear fruit in lives of generous love and service.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you with hearts free from fear
and fill you with courage to use faithfully
the gifts he has entrusted to you. Amen.
May he help you to grow in generous love,
so that your lives may bear lasting fruit
for his kingdom. 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 using your gifts courageously in love.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

God does not ask us to hide our gifts in fear, but to place them lovingly at the service of others. Courageous love always bears fruit.

19 Nov. 2026 – Thursday, 33rd Week in Ordinary Time

Rev 5:1–10; Lk 19:41–44

"Love waits for our yes."

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a lighthouse keeper who tended a light on a dangerous stretch of coast. One stormy night, he saw a ship drifting too close to the rocks. He signalled again and again, shining the light as brightly as he could. But the ship did not change course. In the morning, the wreckage washed ashore. The light had been there, steady and faithful—but it had not been heeded.

In our first reading from the Book of Revelation, we are given a vision of a sealed scroll—God's plan for salvation—which no one can open except the Lamb who was slain. It is a reminder that God has indeed visited his people, that he has spoken, that he has acted decisively in Christ. The light has been lit for all to see.

Yet, in the Gospel, we encounter a deeply moving moment: Jesus weeps over Jerusalem. He sees the city, he loves its people, and yet he knows they have not recognized "the time of their visitation." The light stood among them, but many turned away.

This brings us close to home. We, too, are people visited by God—again and again in grace, in word, in sacrament, in quiet invitations of the heart. And so we ask ourselves: have we recognized his coming? Have we welcomed his peace? As we prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us acknowledge those moments when we have turned away from his loving call, and ask for the grace to respond more freely.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you come to us with patient and faithful love, yet we often keep the doors of our hearts closed:
Lord, have mercy. Christ
Jesus, you weep over our resistance and continue to call us to the peace only you can give: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you never cease waiting for our yes and welcoming us back with mercy and compassion: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who never ceases to seek us with patient love, forgive us for the times we have failed to recognize his presence, refused his invitation to peace, and closed the gates of our hearts to his grace; may he lead us back to himself with tenderness and mercy, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, whose beloved Son wept over Jerusalem
because your people failed to recognize the hour of your visitation, open the gates of our hearts to your grace,
that we may welcome with joy
the peace and salvation you offer us in Christ.
Teach us never to resist your patient love,
but to respond generously to your call
with trusting and willing hearts.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A man once spent years building a beautiful garden. He planted trees, flowers, and carefully tended every corner. Yet, there was one gate he kept firmly locked. No one was allowed to enter. One day, a traveller passed by and admired the garden from outside. “It is beautiful,” he said, “but it was meant to be shared.” The man paused, realizing that in protecting his garden, he had also kept it from fulfilling its purpose.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus approaches Jerusalem and weeps. These are not casual tears; they are the tears of a love deeply invested, a love that longs to gather, to protect, to give life. He had desired to gather the people as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings—but they were not willing.

There is something profoundly human here. We all know what it is to love and not be received, to reach out and be turned away. Love, by its very nature, cannot force itself. It can only invite, wait, and hope. Even divine love respects

human freedom. And so Jesus stands before the city—not with anger, but with tears.

His sorrow is not only about rejection; it is about what is lost because of that rejection. “If you had only understood the message of peace…” There was a gift being offered—peace, healing, life—but it went unrecognized. Choices have consequences, and the refusal of grace leaves a void that no one else can fill.

This Gospel invites us to consider our own openness. The Lord continues to visit us—in moments of prayer, in encounters with others, in the quiet prompting to forgive, to change, to trust. Yet, like Jerusalem, we can fail to recognize him. We can be too busy, too guarded, or too set in our ways to say yes.

And still, the remarkable truth is this: Jesus does not stop loving. His tears are not the end of the story. They are the sign of a love that endures even in the face of refusal. He remains patient, waiting for our response, ready to welcome even the smallest opening of our hearts.

The Book of Revelation reminds us that the Lamb who was slain is also the one who is victorious. God’s plan is not thwarted by human weakness. Even our failures can be taken up into his mercy. The question is not whether God continues to love us—but whether we will allow ourselves to be loved.

Each of us, in one way or another, holds a “gate” within. Perhaps it is fear, or pride, or past hurt that keeps it closed. The Lord does not break it down; he knocks. He waits. He hopes for our yes.

There is a story of a woman who had long been estranged from her son. For years, she wrote letters that were never answered. One day, unexpectedly, there was a knock at her door. When she opened it, there he stood. She didn’t scold him or question him—she simply embraced him. Later, he said, “I didn’t know if you would still want me.” And she replied, “I never stopped waiting.”

That is the heart of God. His love waits for our yes.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that as we place these gifts upon the altar, we may also place before the Lord the closed places of our hearts, trusting in the patient love of Christ who waits for our yes, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
accept the gifts we offer you this day,
and in your mercy transform us
through the saving mystery we celebrate.
As your Son continues to invite us into his peace,
teach us to surrender our fears and resistance,
so that our hearts may be opened more fully
to your grace and love.

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 great mercy you never cease to visit your people with love and compassion.
When humanity wandered far from you,
you sent your Son among us
as the light no darkness can overcome.
He proclaimed the message of peace,
healed the broken-hearted,
and called sinners back to your embrace.

Even when rejected, he did not turn away in anger,
but wept with the sorrow of a love that longs to save.
In him we see the patience of your mercy,
for he waits upon the freedom of every human heart
and rejoices in every soul that returns to you.
And so, with Angels and Archangels,

with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy…

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray to the Father whose love never tires of waiting
for his children to return and whose mercy always
welcomes our yes:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and free our hearts from the fear, pride, and hurt
that keep us from fully welcoming your love.
Graciously grant peace in our days,
that, trusting in your patient mercy
and learning to recognize the time of your visitation,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you wept over Jerusalem
because your people did not recognize the way of peace.
Look not on our sins, but on our desire to return to you with
open hearts, and graciously grant us that peace
which the world cannot give.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who never ceases to call us back with patient and faithful love. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Lord does not force open the doors of our hearts. He knocks gently, patiently, faithfully. Even when we turn away, he does not cease loving us. In this Eucharist, Christ has once again visited his people. He has come close to us with mercy, peace, and healing. May we leave this celebration with hearts more open to his grace, trusting that his love always waits for our yes.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these sacred mysteries,
we humbly pray, O Lord,
that through the power of this Eucharist
you may soften what is hardened within us
and teach us to recognize your presence
in the daily visitations of your grace.
May the love of Christ, patient and enduring,
draw us ever closer to you
and lead us into the peace of your Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord, who waits for you with patient and unfailing love, open your hearts to recognize his presence in your lives. Amen.

May Christ Jesus, who wept over Jerusalem and never ceased calling his people to peace,
lead you into deeper trust and reconciliation. Amen.

And may the Holy Spirit
give you the courage to say yes to God each day
with generous and willing hearts. Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by lives that remain open to his grace, and never forget: his love waits patiently for your yes.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

God’s love does not force, threaten, or abandon. It waits patiently at the door of the human heart. The question is not whether God continues to love us, but whether we will open the gate and say yes.

20 Nov. 2026 – Friday, 33rd Week in Ordinary Time

Rev 10:8–11; Lk 19:45–48

"From clutter to communion: letting Christ restore us as a house of prayer."

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a woman who inherited an old family home. For years it had been closed, its rooms filled with dust and forgotten furniture. When she finally entered, she discovered that what once was a place of warmth and gathering had become cluttered and lifeless. So she began the slow work of clearing, cleaning, and restoring. As the space opened up again, light returned, and the house became livable once more.

In a similar way, our spiritual lives—and even our communities—can become crowded with things that were never meant to take center stage. What was meant to be a space for God can slowly fill with distractions, habits, and priorities that leave little room for prayer.

In today's Gospel, Jesus enters the Temple and finds that what should have been a house of prayer has become something else entirely. His response is strong, even unsettling, because he cares deeply about what the Temple is meant to be.

As we gather now in this sacred place, we are invited to allow the Lord to search our hearts, to clear away what does not belong, and to restore us. Let us acknowledge our sins, asking for the grace to become once more a true house of prayer.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you come to cleanse our hearts and restore us to the Father: Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus, you speak words that are sweet with mercy and challenging with truth: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you desire that your people become a living house of prayer: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God cleanse the temples of our hearts, remove from us whatever keeps us from his love, and restore us as a people open to his presence and peace, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who desire to dwell among your people
and make of us a living temple of your presence,
grant that, purified by your word and renewed by your grace,
we may become ever more faithful in prayer,
open in heart,
and attentive to the voice of your Son.

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

HOMILY

A young man once volunteered to help restore a small, neglected chapel in his village. At first glance, the task seemed simple, but as he began, he realized how much had been forgotten—broken pews, dust-covered altars, and even weeds growing through the floor. Yet, as he worked day by day, something changed—not only in the chapel, but in him. What he restored outwardly began to restore him inwardly.

Today's Gospel presents Jesus entering the Temple in Jerusalem and doing something similar, though far more forceful. He drives out those who were buying and selling, declaring that God's house had been turned into a "den of robbers" instead of a "house of prayer." His actions may seem harsh, but they are born of love—a deep desire to restore the Temple to its true purpose.

The Temple was meant to be a place where all people could encounter God, a space of prayer open even to non-Jews. Yet trade and self-interest had taken over, crowding out that sacred purpose. What was meant for God had

become centred on human gain. Jesus could not remain indifferent to that distortion.

This Gospel is not only about a building long gone. It speaks directly to us. We are the temple of God. Our hearts are meant to be a dwelling place for the Lord, a space where prayer, trust, and love can flourish. Yet, like the Temple of old, we too can become cluttered—filled with anxieties, ambitions, distractions, and self-centred concerns that leave little room for God.

There is also a contrast in the Gospel that is worth noticing. The religious leaders react with hostility to Jesus, seeking to destroy him, while the people “hang on his words.” Those with vested interests resist him; those who are open receive him. It raises a quiet question for each of us: when the Lord challenges us, do we resist or do we listen?

The first reading from Revelation adds another layer. The prophet is told to eat the scroll—it is sweet in the mouth but bitter in the stomach. God’s word is consoling, but it also challenges and purifies. Allowing Christ to cleanse our lives is not always comfortable, but it is always life-giving. Our church buildings, too, remind us of this truth. They are not simply structures; they are houses of prayer shaped by generations of faithful people. Every prayer whispered, every tear shed, every thanksgiving offered leaves a trace. And we, by our presence here, continue that living tradition. But the building fulfills its purpose only if we ourselves become people of prayer.

So the invitation today is simple but demanding: to let Jesus enter the temple of our lives and do his work. To allow him to remove whatever prevents us from being fully open to God. To listen to his word, even when it unsettles us, trusting that his desire is always to restore, not to condemn.

There is a story told of an elderly sacristan who, after decades of service, was asked what he had learned. He simply said, “I learned to keep the church ready—for people, and for God.” Then after a pause he added, “And I learned that my heart needed the same care.” That is our calling too: to keep both this sacred space and the inner space of our hearts ready for the Lord, so that in us, truly, God may find a house of prayer.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that as the Lord restores the inner temple of our hearts and draws us more deeply into communion with him, 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 as your Son cleansed the Temple for true worship,
so purify our hearts from all that distracts us from you,
that our offering may rise in sincerity and love.
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 entered the holy Temple to restore it as a house of prayer, revealing your desire
to dwell among your people in holiness and truth.
With zeal born of love, he calls us to turn away from all that closes our hearts to you, so that, purified by his word and nourished by his grace, we may become a living temple of your presence.
Through him the faithful learn to listen with open hearts,
to welcome the challenge of the Gospel,
and to discover that your mercy restores rather than condemns.
And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy…

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray with trusting hearts to the Father, asking that he keep our lives open to his presence and make us ever more a house of prayer.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every distraction, selfishness, and anxiety that keeps our hearts closed to your grace, and graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may remain faithful in prayer and attentive to your word as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
who 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.
May your peace cleanse the temples of our hearts from all division and distraction, and restore us as a people gathered in prayer and communion.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who comes not to condemn but to restore and renew us.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Lord has entered the temple of our hearts once again. His word may challenge us, yet it is given to heal and restore. In this Eucharist, Christ gently clears away what burdens us so that prayer, trust, and love may flourish anew within us. May we leave this celebration ready for God and ready for one another.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the Bread of heaven, we pray, O Lord, that through this holy mystery
you may continue the work of restoring us in your love.
Remove whatever prevents us from living fully in your presence, and make us faithful witnesses
whose lives become a true house of prayer for the world.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord cleanse your hearts of all that keeps you from his presence, fill you with the light of his word, and restore you as a living house of prayer.
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 prayer, openness, and communion with one another.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Keep the church ready—for people and for God.
And keep your heart ready too.”

21 Nov. 2026 – Saturday, 33rd Week in Ordinary Time

(Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Memorial)

Rev 11:4–12; Lk 20:27–40

“God prepares for us a life beyond death that transforms, not replaces, what we are now.”

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a child who once asked her grandmother, “What is heaven like?” The grandmother smiled and pointed to a half-finished tapestry she was weaving. From the back, it looked like a tangled mess of threads—knots, loose ends, and confusing patterns. “That is how life looks to us now,” she said. Then she turned it around to reveal the front: a beautiful, complete image. “Heaven is when we finally see the whole picture.”
We often live our lives looking only at the tangled side. Questions about death, about what lies beyond, and about the meaning of our relationships can leave us puzzled or even sceptical, like the Sadducees in today’s Gospel. They tried to reduce the mystery of eternal life to something small, something manageable, something that fits neatly

into earthly categories.

Today, as we celebrate the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we are reminded of someone who entrusted her whole life to God without needing to see the full picture. From her earliest offering of herself, Mary lived in faith that God's promises go far beyond what can be seen or understood.

As we gather now, we recognize that we too often limit God's vision to our own narrow expectations. We cling to what we can control and fail to trust in the fullness of life God desires to give us. And so, we prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries by acknowledging our sins.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us to trust in the life that lies beyond death: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you transform all that is offered to you in faith and love: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the God not of the dead but of the living: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who calls us beyond fear into the fullness of eternal life, forgive us our sins, heal our hesitant hearts, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to become the dwelling place of your Son
and taught her to trust completely in your saving plan,
grant, we pray,
that we too may offer our lives generously into your hands
and live in hope of that transformed life
which you promise to all who remain faithful to you.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

There is a story of a man who spent his whole life collecting seeds. He carefully stored them, labelled them, and protected them. But he never planted them, because he feared losing them. When he died, his collection remained intact—but lifeless. The tragedy was not that he lost his seeds, but that he never allowed them to become something more.

In today's Gospel, the Sadducees approach Jesus with a question meant to trap him. They present a complicated scenario about marriage after death, assuming that eternal life must simply be a continuation of earthly arrangements. Their mistake is clear: they reduce God's promise to the limits of human imagination.

Jesus responds by lifting their vision. Life in the resurrection, he says, is not just more of the same. It is something entirely new. It is a life where death has no power, where relationships are no longer bound by necessity or limitation, but are transformed in the fullness of God's love.

This is the heart of our hope: not that life continues as it is, but that it is transfigured. As Saint Paul says, now we see dimly, but then we shall see face to face. What awaits us is not a diminished version of this world, but a deeper participation in God's own life.

The first reading from Revelation echoes this promise. Even in the face of suffering and apparent defeat, God brings life, vindication, and glory. Death is not the end of the story; it is the doorway through which God leads his faithful into something greater.

In Mary, whose Presentation we celebrate today, we see a living example of this trust. From the beginning, her life was offered to God. She did not fully understand what lay ahead, but she believed that God's plan would lead to fullness of life. Her assumption into heaven is the clearest sign that what God begins in faith, he completes in glory.

This has real consequences for how we live now. If eternal life is a transformed existence in God, then our present life is a preparation—not by clinging tightly to what we have, but by offering ourselves generously. Love, faith,

sacrifice—these are the “seeds” that will blossom into eternal life.

There is another story of a woman who planted a tree in her youth. For years, it seemed small and insignificant. But decades later, it had grown huge, giving shade, fruit, and beauty to many. Before she died, she said, “I never saw it fully grown—but I trusted it would be.” So it is with us. What we entrust to God now will be transformed beyond what we can imagine. In the God of the living, nothing given in love is ever lost—only fulfilled.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the gifts we offer, O Lord,
in the celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
be pleasing in your sight,
and teach us to entrust ourselves more fully to you,
so that what is sown in faith during this earthly life
may blossom into eternal joy in your Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

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

For in your wisdom you created us not for death but for life,
and in the resurrection of your Son
you have opened before us a future beyond all human imagining.
You teach us that what is offered to you in faith is never lost, but transformed by your grace into everlasting glory.

In the Blessed Virgin Mary, presented to you from her youth, you have given us a sign of complete trust and perfect hope.
Her life, surrendered entirely to your will, now shares forever in the fullness of your heavenly 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…

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say the prayer of those who trust that the
Father prepares for his children a life that will never end:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and free us from the fear that keeps us clinging only to
what passes away.
Strengthen our hope in the life promised by your Son,
that as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you revealed that in the resurrection
all things are made new in the fullness of your love.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance
with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who leads us from death into eternal life.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal life begins not only after death, but whenever we entrust ourselves to God in love. Every act of faith, every sacrifice, every kindness offered in hope is a seed planted for eternity. In God's hands, nothing given in love is ever wasted; all is transformed into glory.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the sacrament of salvation,
we humbly pray, O Lord, that, through the loving
intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
you may strengthen our faith in the resurrection
and teach us to live each day as an offering pleasing to
you, until you bring us to the fullness of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of the living fill your hearts with hope in the resurrection. Amen.
May Christ, who transforms all things in his love,
teach you to offer your lives generously in faith. Amen.
May the Blessed Virgin Mary, who trusted completely in God's promises, guide you safely toward the fullness of eternal life. 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 trust, hope, and generous love.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

What we surrender to God in faith today may seem small and hidden now, but in the resurrection it will be transformed into a fullness of life beyond all imagining.