



## TAKE FIVE DAILY | OCTOBER 2025

01 Oct 2025

### Spiritual bouquet

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, known as the “Little Flower,” is one of the most popular saints, owing to her inspirational simplicity. She spent almost a decade of her short life cloistered as a Carmelite nun expressing her thoughts in writings that were eventually shared with the world. “Love proves itself by deeds,” she wrote, “so how am I to show my love? Great deeds are forbidden me. The only way I can prove my love is by scattering flowers and these flowers are every little sacrifice, every glance and word, and the doing of the least actions for love.” Scatter some flowers of loving deeds in honor of this great saint.

MEMORIAL OF THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

#### Today's readings:

Nehemiah 2:1-8; Luke 9:57-62 (457 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100125.cfm>).

*“No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the Kingdom of God.”*

02 Oct 2025

### You've got a friend

Joan Wester Anderson has been writing about angels since 1989 after her son was mysteriously rescued from a devastating snow storm on Christmas Eve. That experience resulted in her first book of true stories of remarkable encounters with angels, *Where Angels Walk*. Since then, she has written many more books on the subject, and all of them offer spine-tingling, inspiring tales of ordinary people who have been rescued, healed, comforted, and sheltered by heavenly visitors. These amazing stories make the case that every one of us has a guardian angel. That's a proposition the church itself has made from the earliest times. Biblical scholar and Doctor of the Church Saint Jerome posited: “So valuable to heaven is the dignity of the human soul that every member of the human race has a guardian angel from the moment the person begins to be.” It's nice to know we're not alone.

MEMORIAL OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

#### Today's readings:

Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Matthew 18:1-5, 10 (458/650 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100225.cfm>).

*“Their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.”*

03 Oct 2025

### Models of what's possible

The biblical towns of Tyre and Sidon might bring to mind some modern-day big cities: prosperous, bustling, cosmopolitan—and spiritually hungry. Early in Jesus' ministry people from these distant port cities heard about the things Jesus was doing, and, though they were in some sense outsiders, they responded with more enthusiasm than many of those who were closer to Jesus. Jesus held up these “pagan” cities as models of what is possible when people express a genuine desire for spiritual nourishment. Respond to the gospel with enthusiasm, and your spirit will be rewarded.

#### Today's readings:

Baruch 1:15-22; Luke 10:13-16 (459 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100325.cfm>).

*“It will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you.”*

04 Oct 2025

### Do what you need to do

If Saint Francis of Assisi knew that his band of brother-beggars would one day be called Franciscans, he'd probably laugh, or sigh. He never set himself up as a model. Indeed, he admonished his brothers: "We ought to be ashamed of ourselves; the saints endured but we who are servants of God try to win honor and glory by recounting and making known what they have done." Good deeds are ours to do, according to Francis. At the end of his life, he made that point abundantly clear: "I have done what was mine to do. May Christ teach you what is yours to do." Time to get doing.

#### MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI, RELIGIOUS

##### **Today's readings:**

Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Luke 10:17-24 (460 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100425.cfm>).

*"Although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike."*

05 Oct 2025

## Time is on your side

Time is one of the great mysteries of the human experience. It has many qualities and dimensions. There is the inexorable, relentless public time of clocks and calendars, schedules, and appointments. Then there is private time, the internal time of our thoughts and experiences. This kind of time is unique to each individual and, like a bird, alternates between flight and perching. When we are doing something we love or spending time with someone we care about, the minutes slow down and we experience something akin to God's time, the eternal now. In this dimension there is no pain or suffering, worry or anxiety; no fear of the future or regret for the past—all is well and on time. Spend a few moments in God's time today.

#### TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

##### **Today's readings:**

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4; 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14; Luke 17:5-10 (141 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100525.cfm>).

*"If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late."*

##### **Sunday Spanish Translation**

## El tiempo está de tu lado

El tiempo es uno de los grandes misterios de la experiencia humana. Tiene muchas cualidades y dimensiones. Está el tiempo público, inexorable e incesante de relojes y calendarios, programas, y citas. Y está el tiempo privado, el tiempo interno de nuestros pensamientos y experiencias. Esta clase de tiempo es único para cada individuo y, como un pájaro, alterna entre vuelo y pose. Cuando hacemos algo que nos encanta, o pasamos tiempo con alguien que nos interesa, los minutos disminuyen y experimentamos algo similar al tiempo de Dios, el ahora eterno. En esta dimensión no hay dolor o sufrimiento, preocupación o ansiedad; ni miedo del futuro o arrepentimiento por el pasado—todo está bien y a tiempo. Pasa algunos momentos hoy en el tiempo de Dios.

#### VIGÉSIMO SÉPTIMO DOMINGO EN TIEMPO ORDINARIO

##### **Lecturas del día:**

Habacuc 1:2-3; 2:2-4; 2 Timoteo 1:6-8, 13-14; Lucas 17:5-10 (141 <https://bible.usccb.org/es/bible/lecturas/100525.cfm>).

*"Si se tarda, espéralo, pues llegará sin falta."*

06 Oct 2025

## Get ready for your close-up

Who is my neighbor? A man learned in Israelite law posed this question to Jesus. He asked neither what a neighbor was, nor how to treat a neighbor. The law had taught him that much. Rather he sought to know whom he needed to love. "Love thy neighbor" is a rule easy to understand and accept intellectually. Yet when we are face to face with other people, we are much more prone to excuse ourselves from this obligation. Thus, the Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky wrote: "It's possible to love one's neighbor abstractly, and even occasionally from a distance, but hardly ever close up." Try to see your neighbors in those faces most difficult to love.

**Today's readings:**

Jonah 1:1-2:2, 11; Luke 10:25-37 (461 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100625.cfm>).  
*"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart . . . and your neighbor as yourself."*

07 Oct 2025

## Choose the better part

We all know the gospel story of Martha and her sister Mary of Bethany. During a visit from their friend Jesus, Martha got a little steamed because she was stuck with the cooking and serving while Mary got to sit at the Master's feet and listen to his words. Like many an aggrieved sibling before and since, she took her gripe to a higher authority, in this case Christ himself: "Tell her to help me." But note: Jesus responded with neither condemnation nor praise. He merely said that Mary had "chosen the better part"—in other words, Mary realized the importance of taking time out of the busyness of everyday life for hearing the words and teachings of the Lord. You can, too.

**Today's readings:**

Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 10:38-42 (462 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100725.cfm>).  
*"There is need of only one thing."*

08 Oct 2025

## More than words

Think about the Lord's Prayer: It sounds as if it's mostly about what God does, but it's just as much—maybe more—about what we are to do. "Hallowed by your name, your kingdom come" is not only praise of God but also a prayer for God's name to be known and God's kingdom to be fulfilled on Earth—both of which involve our cooperation. "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those indebted to us" reminds us of the uncomfortable truth that scripture proclaims loud and clear: God will forgive us to the extent we forgive one another. Next time you pray the Our Father, don't only say the words: Resolve to fulfill them.

**Today's readings:**

Jonah 4:1-11; Luke 11:1-4 (463 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100825.cfm>).  
*"Lord, teach us to pray."*

09 Oct 2025

## A perfect example

Most of us who have children and all of us who were once children carry some regrets about the whole parenting process. Even the most devoted parents fall short. The good news is that love covers a multitude of flaws. When children know they are truly loved, they can forgive much. As Saint John Chrysostom advises, "If from the beginning we teach children to love true wisdom, they will have greater wealth and glory than riches can provide." Parenting will never be perfect, but love, humility, and a desire to lead children toward wisdom can go a long way. And for all our shortcomings, we can always look to the greatest parent of all, God, for guidance and grace.

**Today's readings:**

Malachi 3:13-20b; Luke 11:5-13 (464 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100925.cfm>).  
*"How much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"*

10 Oct 2025

## Cast your demons out

Demons can make for great supernatural thrillers in the entertainment world, but they can also wreak havoc on our lives. We bump into them all the time—an unkind word, a sense of entitlement, a disparaging attitude toward ourselves or others. Our demons may not be the apocalyptic creatures of *The Walking Dead* or the latest "survival horror" video game, but they are very real and very deadly nonetheless. They can rob us of our conscience, of our God-given capacity to move toward the good, foster right relationships, and seek God always. What demons are you tangling with and how might you,

in the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (no. 385), be vigilant in shifting your focus to God and trusting in the “superabundance” of God’s grace?

**Today's readings:**

Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Luke 11:15-26 (465 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/101025.cfm>).

*“Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste and house will fall against house.”*

11 Oct 2025

## Blessed are those who share the Good News

One day a female follower of Jesus, apparently touched by his words, was moved to shout out a blessing on him: “Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed,” perhaps wishing that she herself should have such a son. Yet Jesus demurs and turns the blessing back upon her and all like her. While Jesus’ mother and her womb are indeed blessed as we pray in the “Hail Mary,” Jesus takes even greater delight in those of either gender who allow his words to take root in their hearts, their inmost being—those who keep that word alive by nourishing it and sharing it with others. Jesus blesses us for laboring and bringing the Good News to birth today.

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**Today's readings:**

Joel 4:12-21; Luke 11:27-28 (466 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/101125.cfm>).

*“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”*

12 Oct 2025

## Faith brings a wellspring of healing

Whether Jesus was speaking to a woman who had anointed him in a Pharisee’s house, another woman whom he had cured of a hemorrhage, or a leper whom he’d cleansed, his closing words were much the same: “Your faith has saved you.” Believing in Jesus’ power to heal had opened the door to healing. Some versions of the Bible, though, translate this phrase a little differently: “Your faith has made you well.” To be “saved,” then, can mean to be made well, to be made whole, not only in one’s own person but in relationships with others, too. In yourself and in your relationships with God and others, what needs healing?

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Today's readings:**

2 Kings 5:14-17; 2 Timothy 2:8-13; Luke 17:11-19 (144 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/101225.cfm>).

*“Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.”*

### Sunday Spanish Translation

## La fe trae una fuente de curación

Ya sea que Jesús estuviera hablando a una mujer que lo había ungido en la casa de un Fariseo, otra mujer a quien había curado de una hemorragia, o un leproso con quien él se hubiera limpiado, sus palabras finales fueron casi las mismas: “Tu fe te ha salvado.” Creer en el poder de Jesús para sanar había abierto la puerta a la sanación. Sin embargo, algunas versiones de la Biblia, traducen esta frase un poco diferente: “Tu fe te ha hecho bien.” Para ser “salvado,” entonces, puede significar estar bien hecho, ser hecho completo, no solo en uno como persona propia sino en relaciones con los demás, también. En ti mismo y en tus relaciones con Dios y los demás, ¿qué necesita sanarse?

VIGÉSIMO OCTAVO DOMINGO EN TIEMPO ORDINARIO

**Lecturas del día:**

2 Reyes 5:14-17; 2 Timoteo 2:8-13; Lucas 17:11-19 (144 <https://bible.usccb.org/es/bible/lecturas/101225.cfm>).

*“Levántate y vete. Tu fe te ha salvado.”*

13 Oct 2025

## Don't say no to this invitation

When in Luke's gospel Jesus uses the phrase the "sign of Jonah," most of us would think of the whale. But Jesus has something else in mind. Jonah had been a prophet sent by God to convert the pagan city of Nineveh—a job Jonah didn't want. But when he finally buckled down and did what God asked, the people—much to Jonah's astonishment—converted! So for Jesus the "sign of Jonah" recalls the Ninevites' acceptance of God's word through God's prophet. At the judgment, Jesus says, those Ninevites will shame his own generation because they were humble enough and smart enough to accept God's invitation. We, who have been given the gospel and are surrounded by so many signs of God's love, have even less justification for not hearing the word of God and keeping it.

### Today's readings:

Romans 1:1-7; Luke 11:29-32 (467 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/101325.cfm>).

*"This generation ... seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it, except the sign of Jonah."*

14 Oct 2025

## Be slow to judge

The Pharisees may have gotten a bit of a bum rap in the New Testament because of events that occurred after Jesus' death. The passages of the New Testament that are most hostile to the Pharisees were compiled at a time when it had become clear that most Jews did not consider Jesus to be the Messiah. The Pharisees may have served as a convenient scapegoat for that rejection. The Pharisaic tradition was in fact more flexible on many questions than it was portrayed to be. It does us well to look and listen carefully and judge slowly when it comes to those who follow a different drummer.

### Today's readings:

Romans 1:16-25; Luke 11:37-41 (468 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/101425.cfm>).

*"You Pharisees . . . inside you are filled with plunder and evil."*

15 Oct 2025

## A one-step program

Ever wonder whether you are in good spiritual health? It's easy to assess: If love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control come easily to you, you're in good shape. If hatred, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, and envy are your frequent reactions to events, you're in need of a spiritual workout. Let Saint Teresa of Ávila (1515-82), reformer and church doctor, be your spiritual trainer. Step one: Recite this Teresian prayer daily: "Let nothing disturb you; Let nothing dismay you; All things pass: God never changes. Patience attains all that it strives for. He who has God lacks for nothing: God alone suffices." Step two: There is no need for a step two if you master step one.

MEMORIAL OF TERESA OF JESUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

### Today's readings:

Romans 2:1-11; Luke 11:42-46 (469 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/101525.cfm>).

*"There will be glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good."*

16 Oct 2025

## We are already blessed

It helps to know things will work out before you get started on them. Paying bills is easy when you know the money is there. Getting something fixed is a less anxious experience when you have confidence in the repair person. So it is with the spiritual life. In all the apparent struggle to believe, live a holy life, and do the right thing, we can forget how much God has already done for us. And Saint Paul makes this point many times. We are already blessed. We already have redemption in Christ. God has revealed a plan for us. All we have to do is to stay close to God and follow the way. Saint Vincent de Paul understood this

truth well when he asked, "Why should your soul not be filled with confidence since, by the mercy of Our Lord, you are his beloved child?" God has given us so much and promises to lead us to glory. Knowing that might make the journey a bit easier.

**Today's readings:**

Romans 3:21-30; Luke 11:47-54 (470 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/101625.cfm>).

*"The righteousness of God has been manifested ... through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe."*

17 Oct 2025

## A loving embrace

Ignatius of Antioch (c. 35-110) is one of the apostolic fathers of the church, a small group of Christian authors who lived close to the time of Jesus and had personal contact with some of the 12 apostles. It is said that Saint Peter himself appointed Ignatius to be bishop of Antioch. Tradition also has it that as a young child Ignatius had been one of the children Jesus took in his arms and blessed (Matthew 19:13-15). Whether or not historically true, this story signals something each of us can make our own—the image of being held in the loving arms of our Savior. That is a tradition that remains unbroken, from the time of Jesus down to the present.

MEMORIAL OF IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP, MARTYR

**Today's readings:**

Romans 4:1-8; Luke 12:1-7 (471 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/101725.cfm>).

*"Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them has escaped the notice of God."*

18 Oct 2025

## Care to share with the class?

Today we celebrate Saint Luke, author of the Acts of the Apostles as well as the gospel that bears his name. Thanks to Luke we have an original, compelling portrait of Jesus, our Messiah, the master who emphasized the importance of prayer and who cared deeply for women and the poor, the outcast, the ill, and the lowly. Luke is the only one of the four evangelists whose stated purpose in writing his gospel is so that others would be assured of the truth of what they've already learned. He writes in the prologue to his gospel: "I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, . . . so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received." Let us be grateful to parents, teachers, mentors, and others who, like Luke, freely share what they have learned for the benefit of others.

FEAST OF LUKE, EVANGELIST

**Today's readings:**

2 Timothy 4:10-17b; Luke 10:1-9 (661 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/101825.cfm>).

*"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few."*

19 Oct 2025

## No need to duke it out

"Sometimes I get so mad at God," one woman told the priest, "that I'd like to punch him right in the nose!" Yikes! It sounds irreverent, but that's exactly what Jesus is saying in an amusing parable about a widow and a judge. The judge renders a decision for the widow because he fears the woman will strike him! If that's true for a worldly judge, Jesus says, how much more will the Judge of All be quick to answer a prayer. Faith, then, is waiting in joyful and expectant hope for our God, the truly just judge, who answers all our prayers. So you can put the gloves away.

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Today's readings:**

Exodus 17:8-13; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2; Luke 18:1-8 (147 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/101925.cfm>).

*"Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night?"*

## Sunday Spanish Translation

### No hay necesidad de pelear

"A veces me enojo tanto con Dios," una mujer le dijo al sacerdote, "que me gustaría golpearle justo en la nariz!" ¡Cielos! Suena irreverente, pero eso es exactamente lo que Jesús está diciendo en una parábola divertida sobre una viuda y un juez. ¡El juez da una decisión por la viuda porque él teme que la mujer lo golpee! Si eso es verdad para un juez mundano, Jesús dice, cuánto más el Juez de Todos será rápido en responder a una oración. La fe, entonces, se mantiene en una esperanza gozosa e ilusionada por nuestro Dios, el juez verdaderamente justo, quien responde todas nuestras oraciones. Para que puedas guardar los guantes.

VIGÉSIMO NOVENO DOMINGO EN TIEMPO ORDINARIO

#### Lecturas del día:

Éxodo 17:8-13; 2 Timoteo 3:14-4:2; Lucas 18:1-8 (147 <https://bible.usccb.org/es/bible/lecturas/101925.cfm>).

*"¿Creen acaso que Dios no hará justicia a sus elegidos, que claman a él día y noche?"*

20 Oct 2025

### Be generous with your time

Jealously guarding our time can be considered a form of greed. We receive from God the gift of 24/7; we need to give some of it away. That's why this week we observe Pastoral Care Week, sponsored by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. This week was established to recognize the many ways church professionals respond with attentive listening to those with physical, emotional, or spiritual concerns. Hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, and your local parish will accept volunteers who wish to donate their time for this important work. "What does love look like?" Saint Augustine asks. "It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others. That is what love looks like." Cut loose a couple of hours a week and give them to someone in need.

#### Today's readings:

Romans 4:20-25; Luke 12:13-21 (473 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/102025.cfm>).

*"The one who stores up treasure for himself is not rich in what matters to God."*

21 Oct 2025

### The virtue of patience

Waiting is among the greatest spiritual challenges a believer faces. Twentieth-century French philosopher and Jesuit priest Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, whose visionary writings were not always well received in certain Catholic circles, knew what it meant to wait. It wasn't until several decades after his death that the church fully embraced his theological insights. His prayer "Patient Trust," borne out of his own trials, continues to offer hope for those who wait: "Above all, trust in the slow work of God. /We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. . . /Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete."

#### Today's readings:

Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Luke 12:35-38 (474 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/102125.cfm>).

*"Be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks."*

22 Oct 2025

### Hold yourself accountable

On the back of countless trucks on our highways appears the curious inquiry: "How is my driving?" The accompanying number to call invites our critique. What if we all came equipped with signs inviting the moral critique of those around us? We might be surprised and not at all pleased with the feedback. Thankfully, Christianity doesn't rely on external judgment; Jesus even warned against judging others. But

we are encouraged to perform our own regular examination of conscience. Take a look at your life and loves, relationships and resources, talents and time. How are you doing?

**Today's readings:**

Romans 6:12-18; Luke 12:39-48 (475 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/102225.cfm>).

*"Much will be required of the person entrusted with much."*

23 Oct 2025

## Light a fire under your spiritual growth

Jesus shocks his disciples—and many of us as well, no doubt—when he declares that he came not to establish peace but rather division, to “set the earth on fire.” What kind of fire did he have in mind? Fire in biblical times was associated with God’s action in the world and the lives of people. Jesus is using strong language to impress upon us the importance of taking responsibility for our spiritual growth. Do our relationships, choices, lifestyles, and loyalties reflect the seriousness of the call to spiritual maturity? If not, what can we do today to begin to put things right?

**Today's readings:**

Romans 6:19-23; Luke 12:49-53 (476 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/102325.cfm>).

*"Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth?"*

24 Oct 2025

## Read the signs

We’re used to thinking about God as “hidden” or invisible, requiring an effort to perceive in the world around us, and one whom we will know fully only when we die. After all, doesn’t Saint Paul say, “Now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face”? But it’s also true that signs of God, as Jesus said, lie everywhere and are as obvious as a cloud bringing rain or a hot wind promising warm weather. So be a meteorologist for God. The signs of Christ’s presence are all around. Where do you see them?

**Today's readings:**

Romans 7:18-25a; Luke 12:54-59 (477 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/102425.cfm>).

*"You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky; why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"*

25 Oct 2025

## Make God decisions

One of the choices life offers is whether to let God be part of your life. Of course, God is always present, within you and around you, but you can choose to ignore, shut out, or pretend God isn’t there. Saint Paul called this “I don’t need God attitude” living in “the flesh” and believed this illusion of self-sufficiency hid the road to death. Openness to the divine, though—to the power and Spirit of Christ—guides you to life in God. “If we wish to make any progress in the service of God we must begin every day of our life with new eagerness,” advises Saint Charles Borromeo. Find some ways to choose God today.

**Today's readings:**

Romans 8:1-11; Luke 13:1-9 (478 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/102525.cfm>).

*"If Christ is in you, ... the spirit is alive because of righteousness."*

26 Oct 2025

## Be who you are

“Do you know who I am?” That’s the question maître d’s, hotel clerks, even arresting officers occasionally receive from the celebrated and powerful among us whose sense of privilege and entitlement gets the best of them. Contrast that with the question Jesus asks his disciples about the word on the street, “Who do they say I am?” When they answer, “The Messiah,” Jesus swears them to silence. In the words of the

20th-century monk Thomas Merton: "Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real." Strive each day to be who you really are: "The salt of the earth" (Matt. 13-14).

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Today's readings:**

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14 (150 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/102625.cfm>).

*"Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness."*

**Sunday Spanish Translation**

**Se quien eres**

"¿Sabes quién soy?" Esa es la pregunta que los maîtres de restaurante, empleados de hotel, y hasta los oficiales que arrestan a alguien reciben ocasionalmente de las celebridades y de los poderosos de nuestro medio, cuyo sentido de privilegio y autoridad los supera. Compara eso con la pregunta que Jesús hace a sus discípulos acerca de lo que se dice en la calle, "¿Quién dicen que soy yo?" Cuando responden, "el Mesías," Jesús les hace jurar que guardarán silencio. En palabras del monje del siglo XX, Thomas Merton: "El orgullo nos hace artificiales y la humildad nos hace reales." Esfuércense cada día para ser quienes realmente son: "La sal de la tierra" (Mateo 13-14).

TRIGÉSIMO DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

**Lecturas del día:**

Eclesiástico 35:12-14, 16-18; 2 Timoteo 4:6-8, 16-18; Lucas 18:9-14 (150 <https://bible.usccb.org/es/bible/lecturas/102625.cfm>).

*"Jesús dijo esta parábola sobre algunos que se tenían por justos."*

27 Oct 2025

**How to keep it all straight**

The synagogue leaders, upon seeing Jesus raise up a woman bent in two by years of infirmity, were indignant that Jesus had done this astonishing, good thing on the Sabbath, a day when it was forbidden to work. It seems that those who choose external compliance over compassion are more bent over—bent in upon themselves—than the woman whom Jesus bids, "Stand up." Being a stand-up person sometimes means going against convention, expectation, and even laws. Choose a loving response even if it means bending the rules.

**Today's readings:**

Romans 8:12-17; Luke 13:10-17 (479 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/102725.cfm>).

*"Ought she not to have been set free on the sabbath day?"*

28 Oct 2025

**Fight the good fight**

The Zealots, of which the apostle Simon was a member, were the radical and militant resistance to the Roman military occupation of Palestine in the first century. Today we would call them insurgents. Though Jude likely did not belong to the Zealots, the devotion that bears his name today is one of the most zealously fervent in the church. Both Simon and Jude, then, join with us in fighting against the oppression that would take away our hope. To that end we are invited to join our resources with organizations like the National Shrine of St. Jude and the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to help carry on the fight.

FEAST OF SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES

**Today's readings:**

Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16 (666 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/102825.cfm>).

*"He called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose."*

29 Oct 2025

**Narrow your focus**

Jesus speaks of entering salvation through the “narrow door.” Other translations refer to it as the “narrow gate.” Walled portions of Jerusalem contained some gates that were so narrow it was said a person would have trouble passing through them carrying much with them. Perhaps this image can help us consider why the path to salvation involves a narrow passage—we can’t carry anything with us to the other side; it’s only us, shorn of our props and possessions, and God. “We must detach ourselves from all,” says Saint John of God, “for the all who is Jesus Christ, and we must trust him alone.” It might be a good idea to begin detaching from those possessions now.

**Today's readings:**

Romans 8:26-30; Luke 13:22-30 (481 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/102925.cfm>).

*“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter.”*

30 Oct 2025

## Everything leads back to the divine

For those times when God seems distant or absent, when people move through their day and don’t see signs of God anywhere, it’s easy to forget that God is behind it all. Yet even a world that feels more haunted rather than filled with God’s presence is still beloved creation—the expression of God’s overflowing love. A number of spiritual masters have suggested the practice of seeing God in all things. After all, if God really did create everything, it must be possible to find a string in every moment that leads back to the divine. Saint Paul, for one, was sure nothing in the universe could separate people from God. And why not? It all comes from the one who made it.

**Today's readings:**

Romans 8:31b-39; Luke 13:31-35 (482 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/103025.cfm>).

*“What will separate us from the love of Christ?”*

31 Oct 2025

## Keep the conversation going

Despite his differences with the Pharisees, Jesus never stopped interacting with them, even going so far as to dine with them. And if they were not particularly open to his message, they at least were impressed enough to share a meal with him and hear him out. In an age where public differences of opinion, played out in front of the ever-present media, seem to descend to the level of insult and demonization, consider breaking bread with someone with whom you disagree. Though you will not settle all your differences, you may strengthen the things you have in common and allow for the lines of communication to remain open.

**Today's readings:**

Romans 9:1-5; Luke 14:1-6 (483 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/103125.cfm>).

*“On a sabbath Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees.”*

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