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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 2025



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 1, 2025



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Daily Reading for Monday, September 1st, 2025

Reading 1, First Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, to make sure that you do not grieve for them, as others do who have no hope.

14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that in the same way God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

15 We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that we who are still alive for the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have fallen asleep.

16 At the signal given by the voice of the Archangel and the trumpet of God, the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise,

17 and only after that shall we who remain alive be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. This is the way we shall be with the Lord for ever.

18 With such thoughts as these, then, you should encourage one another.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 96:1, 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13

1 Sing a new song to Yahweh! Sing to Yahweh, all the earth!

3 declare his glory among the nations, his marvels to every people!

4 Great is Yahweh, worthy of all praise, more awesome than any of the gods.

5 All the gods of the nations are idols! It was Yahweh who made the heavens;

11 Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad! Let the sea thunder, and all it holds!

12 Let the countryside exult, and all that is in it, and all the trees of the forest cry out for joy,

13 at Yahweh's approach, for he is coming, coming to judge the earth; he will judge the world with saving justice, and the nations with constancy.

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Gospel, Luke 4:16-30

16 He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read,

17 and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

18 The spirit of the Lord is on me, for he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives, sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,

19 to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

20 He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him.

21 Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even while you are listening.'

22 And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips. They said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?'

23 But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself," and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own country." '

24 And he went on, 'In truth I tell you, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.

25 'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land,

26 but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a town in Sidonia.

27 And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many suffering from virulent skin-diseases in Israel, but none of these was cured -- only Naaman the Syrian.'

28 When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged.

29 They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him off the cliff,

30 but he passed straight through the crowd and walked away.

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Questions for Reflection for September 1, 2025

1. In our reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians, Paul speaks about mourning for the dead. In fact, he does not use the word “dead,” but rather “asleep” because it is a more accurate description. Also, because the expression was common among the early followers of Jesus Christ. These early Christians did not fear death. They sometimes referred to it as a “change of dwellings”.

It is natural to be sad when our loved ones depart this life. It is okay to mourn and to feel emotional. And it can be difficult to move forward when confronted with such grief, especially for a longtime spouse or a child.

But our Christian faith teaches one very important thing about death –that death is not for us! For us, there is resurrection to eternal life! Let this lesson be of comfort to you when you reflect upon your departed loved ones. If you feel you struggle with grief, reach out and speak to your pastor or deacon, and spend time reflecting on this reading. We will be reborn to live in perfect communion with God and all the faithful, and this is the Good News, of the Lord!

2. Our responsorial psalm is one of rejoicing, for God is coming soon!

The skeptics contend that the wait for Christ’s return is long in coming, and they scoff at those who believe. Yet, it is they who will be surprised, for God has kept every promise He has ever made. And we have confidence He will keep this final promise as well!

So let us rejoice, and care no what the skeptics say, for God is coming soon, and His promises will be fulfilled.

3. In our Gospel reading, we find Jesus reading from the Book of Isaiah in the synagogue. Raised in a Jewish home, he was quite familiar with this passage. And He knew that the Rabbis saw this, as referring to the coming of the promised Messiah. He is, in effect, declaring that He is that Messiah.

His preaching is such that all are astonished. But then Jesus takes a turn and points out that during a time of famine and disease, God only saved Naaman, a Syrian, an outsider, who responded to God’s instructions with faith.

This example illustrates a point. That God can help whom He chooses and will only help those who respond to Him in faith. This upset the people in Jesus’ hometown, because they wanted to see Jesus work miracles, but they did not accept Him as Lord.

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And so, they took Him to a cliff to throw Him off, but He simply walked through the crowd and away. Incidentally, that was a miracle, but the people were so blind, they could not see it.

Miracles happen all the time, but often people do not see them because they are blinded by skepticism. Let us look around for miracles. Do we see any around us? We should! But if we do not, let us consider that we are viewing the world through the wrong eyes, through skeptical eyes, when perhaps we should be seeing with eyes of faith!



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 2, 2025



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Daily Reading for Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025

Reading 1, First Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11

- 1 About times and dates, brothers, there is no need to write to you
- 2 for you are well aware in any case that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.
- 3 It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that sudden destruction falls on them, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there is no escape.
- 4 But you, brothers, do not live in the dark, that the Day should take you unawares like a thief.
- 5 No, you are all children of light and children of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness,
- 6 so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.
- 9 God destined us not for his retribution, but to win salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 10 who died for us so that, awake or asleep, we should still live united to him.
- 11 So give encouragement to each other, and keep strengthening one another, as you do already.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 27:1, 4, 13-14

- 1 [Of David] Yahweh is my light and my salvation, whom should I fear? Yahweh is the fortress of my life, whom should I dread?
- 4 One thing I ask of Yahweh, one thing I seek: to dwell in Yahweh's house all the days of my life, to enjoy the sweetness of Yahweh, to seek out his temple.
- 13 This I believe: I shall see the goodness of Yahweh, in the land of the living.
- 14 Put your hope in Yahweh, be strong, let your heart be bold, put your hope in Yahweh.

Gospel, Luke 4:31-37

- 31 He went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and taught them on the Sabbath.
- 32 And his teaching made a deep impression on them because his word carried authority.

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33 In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean devil, and he shouted at the top of his voice,

34 'Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.'

35 But Jesus rebuked it, saying, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the devil, throwing the man into the middle, went out of him without hurting him at all.

36 Astonishment seized them and they were all saying to one another, 'What is it in his words? He gives orders to unclean spirits with authority and power and they come out.'

37 And the news of him travelled all through the surrounding countryside.



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Questions for Reflection for September 2, 2025

1. Our first reading contains a sober reminder that the Day of the Lord will come by surprise. Therefore, we must always be ready. But it also pointed to a foundational belief of the early Church, that Jesus Christ was to come again. In fact, the early believers regularly prayed for that Second Coming, using the word "Maranatha", a compound Aramaic word which means the Lord has come as well as the Lord is coming. Do we believe this? We profess it regularly in our Creeds. If we truly believe it, we will live differently.

Nobody knows for sure what the last days will look and feel like. There are some who are constantly obsessed with signs of the end times, but this is the wrong emphasis. We must be concerned with our own readiness to meet the Lord. Indeed, we emphasize this final meeting each time we attend Mass. For we are asked to come to the table washed of our sins, and then we meet the Lord in the Eucharist.

Let us always be ready, having made preparations for our final encounter with the Lord, just as we prepare for Mass. Let us use the Sacrament of Reconciliation to enjoy a new beginning. Let us keep ourselves clean by avoiding sin. And let us attend Mass and celebrate the presence of Our Lord.

2. Today, our psalmist has put his trust in the Lord, and has no fear. So, it is with all who trust in God. Trust in God is easier for those who believe, for we see His Signs and His miracles all around us. We know that God keeps His promises, and we have faith that we are being saved. What could we possibly fear!

Let us be reminded that God is worthy of our trust, and let us banish all fear, all reliance on the wrong things of this world, and place our faith and hope in that which is right and true and good and reliable, that is in the Lord.

3. In today's Gospel, Jesus has traveled to Capernaum, where He works a miracle, casting out a demon. Of course, the devil recognized Jesus, and in its fear asked if Jesus had come to destroy it. Jesus is the Lord. The devils MUST respond to His commands.

If these words sound familiar, it's because we hear them every day.

We don't have to look far to find news reports of evil people crying out that they are being threatened by the good in the world. Whether it's people clamoring to murder the unborn, or the enemies of the faithful complaining that they cannot banish the Church. In all the news reports, you can almost make out the demon's words, "have you come to destroy us?"

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Make no mistake, Jesus does come to destroy the demons in our midst. Let us rejoice that He is coming and let us be prepared to receive Him as our savior and Lord. Let us ask Him to come and expose and drive out the demonic influences, in His beloved Church, and in the world which He came to save and set free.



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 3, 2025



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Daily Reading for Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025

Reading 1, Colossians 1:1-8

1 From Paul, by the will of God an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy

2 to God's holy people in Colossae, our faithful brothers in Christ. Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

3 We give thanks for you to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, continually in our prayers,

4 ever since we heard about your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you show towards all God's holy people

5 because of the hope which is stored up for you in heaven. News of this hope reached you not long ago through the word of truth, the gospel

6 that came to you in the same way as it is bearing fruit and growing throughout the world. It has had the same effect among you, ever since you heard about the grace of God and recognised it for what it truly is.

7 This you learnt from Epaphras, our very dear fellow-worker and a trustworthy deputy for us as Christ's servant,

8 and it was he who also told us all about your love in the Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 52:8, 9

8 But I, like a flourishing olive tree in the house of God, put my trust in God's faithful love, for ever and ever.

9 I shall praise you for ever for what you have done, and shall trust in your name, so full of goodness, in the presence of your faithful.

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Gospel, Luke 4:38-44

38 Leaving the synagogue he went to Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in the grip of a high fever and they asked him to do something for her.

39 Standing over her he rebuked the fever and it left her. And she immediately got up and began to serve them.

40 At sunset all those who had friends suffering from diseases of one kind or another brought them to him, and laying his hands on each he cured them.

41 Devils too came out of many people, shouting, 'You are the Son of God.' But he warned them and would not allow them to speak because they knew that he was the Christ.

42 When daylight came he left the house and made his way to a lonely place. The crowds went to look for him, and when they had caught up with him they wanted to prevent him leaving them,

43 but he answered, 'I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns too, because that is what I was sent to do.'

44 And he continued his proclamation in the synagogues of Judaea.



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Questions for Reflection for September 3, 2025

1. Our first reading is the opening of Paul's letter to the Colossians. When Paul wrote this letter, he was under arrest in Rome, awaiting trial. Before long, he would be martyred by the evil Emperor Nero. But despite the certain knowledge of his impending doom, Paul gave thanks, and praise to God, and noted that the Gospel was bearing fruit throughout the world.

Paul was rightfully happy because he had hope in heaven, and hope in the Lord being with him, even in prison! Hope is a theological virtue, infused within us in Baptism. It is also a fruit of the Spirit, cultivated in us as we respond to God's grace with living faith. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains:

"Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."84 "The Holy Spirit . . . he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life."85

"The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every man; it takes up the hopes that inspire men's activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps man from discouragement; it sustains him during times of abandonment; it opens up his heart in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, he is preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity." (CCC #1817, 1818, citing Hebrews 10 and Titus 3, in the New Testament)

Sometimes we focus on the troubles we have, and we may feel as if they are too many to count. Yet, we can take inspiration from Paul, under Nero's evil injustice, yet joyful and hope, because he has faith in God's promises. He knows he will enjoy eternal life.

We too are called to this joy and hope, even when things seem difficult.

2. In today's responsorial, David remarks how he is like a flourishing olive tree, trusting and praising God. One can imagine David, with his arms stretched high to the heavens like some great olive tree. This is what it means to pray. Prayer is to life one's heart and mind to God. Let us be like David, joyfully raising our hearts and minds to God.

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3. In today's Gospel, Jesus heals many people who recognize Him as the Christ, the Greek word for Messiah. When He tries to depart, the people form a crowd to convince Him to stay. Peter takes him to his home and implores the Lord to heal his mother-in-law, which He does. He delivers many from the grip of the devil. Jesus is still alive, walking among us, and doing these very things, for those with eyes of faith who call upon Him.

This is how we should be! Let us be like Simon, inviting Jesus into our homes to heal whatever illness may be there. Let us be like the crowds, asking Jesus to stay in our lives and deliver us from the current diabolical assault on His Church. Let us keep Him in our homes, our schools, our halls of government, and in every public place. Consider what you can do to invite Jesus into your home and keep Him welcome there.



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 4, 2025



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Daily Reading for Thursday, September 4th, 2025

Reading 1, Colossians 1:9-14

9 That is why, ever since the day he told us, we have never failed to remember you in our prayers and ask that through perfect wisdom and spiritual understanding you should reach the fullest knowledge of his will

10 and so be able to lead a life worthy of the Lord, a life acceptable to him in all its aspects, bearing fruit in every kind of good work and growing in knowledge of God,

11 fortified, in accordance with his glorious strength, with all power always to persevere and endure,

12 giving thanks with joy to the Father who has made you able to share the lot of God's holy people and with them to inherit the light.

13 Because that is what he has done. It is he who has rescued us from the ruling force of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son that he loves,

14 and in him we enjoy our freedom, the forgiveness of sin.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 98:2-3, 3-4, 5-6

2 Yahweh has made known his saving power, revealed his saving justice for the nations to see,

3 mindful of his faithful love and his constancy to the House of Israel. The whole wide world has seen the saving power of our God.

4 Acclaim Yahweh, all the earth, burst into shouts of joy!

5 Play to Yahweh on the harp, to the sound of instruments;

6 to the sound of trumpet and horn, acclaim the presence of the King.

Gospel, Luke 5:1-11

1 Now it happened that he was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God,

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2 when he caught sight of two boats at the water's edge. The fishermen had got out of them and were washing their nets.

3 He got into one of the boats -- it was Simon's -- and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

4 When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.'

5 Simon replied, 'Master, we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.'

6 And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear,

7 so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled both boats to sinking point.

8 When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.'

9 For he and all his companions were completely awestruck at the catch they had made;

10 so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is people you will be catching.'

11 Then, bringing their boats back to land they left everything and followed him.

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Questions for Reflection for September 4, 2025

1. In our first reading, Paul mentions the forgiveness of sin, and the freedom that comes with it. Freedom is a gift which comes from God, and it has a purpose. Its purpose is to allow us to choose whether or not we wish to live in communion with God. God respects our freedom, and that includes our freedom to choose something other than Him. Such an exercise of "freedom" is sin.

Part Three of the Catechism, a section devoted specifically to a discussion of Moral theology is entitled Life in Christ. The Section treats the vocation of man to beatitude, a word which means happiness. It articulates a clear Moral theology of choice by considering the morality of human acts, the role of the passions, proper formation of the conscience and the cultivation of the virtues accompanied by the rejection of sin.

In its explanation of the morality of human acts, The Catechism offers a sobering insight concerning a wrong exercise of freedom: "Mortal sin is a radical possibility of human freedom, as is love itself." It properly insists that authentic Human Freedom cannot be realized in decisions made against God and against what is good because it is "patterned on God's freedom."

One analogy that many will understand, is the gift of a first car. With such a gift comes an expectation, that you will drive responsibly, going to and from school, work and church. And occasionally, on a date! But they cannot control us behind the wheel. If we break traffic laws, go places we shouldn't be, and don't maintain the gift, well, we cannot expect much good.

The good news is, if we have made mistakes in the past, we can correct them through reconciliation and penance, and choose better next time. And as Paul points out, this is only possible through Jesus, and the freedom He has earned for all of us.

2. In our responsorial today, we recall the saving power of God. Let us rejoice and be glad for God has shown His saving power to the world. He has shown His saving power to us, in our own day to day experience of the world. God is real! He is acting, always. What is needed is the eyes of living faith to see His action and a heart of living faith to respond.

Take a moment today to give thanks for your salvation and think of some small way you can share your joy with others, whether through an act of kindness or a prayer, or some other good gesture.

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3. In today's Gospel, we see Jesus call Simon. This encounter leads to a life of transformation which converts Simon from a mediocre fisherman into a great disciple. It did not happen all at once. And it called for Simon's continual response of faith. This is a powerful lesson for us! If I were to ask you, what do you do? You might answer with the name of your job. Or perhaps you attend school or are retired. This is how we identify ourselves. But Jesus invites us to see ourselves differently. We are all fishers, in the business of catching people, and the Gospel is our net.

Think about what you do each day, and how you might better pay out the Gospel. You do not have to preach. You simply have to bring your Christian values with you, wherever you go. You provide the net, and Jesus will provide the fish!

Go about your business as if Jesus were with you, just as He was in the boat with Simon –after all, He is here with us. And don't worry if you aren't the greatest at what you do. Remember, the disciples were ordinary folks, just like us. Just as Jesus did for Simon, He will do for you too.



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 5, 2025



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Daily Reading for Friday, September 5th, 2025

Reading 1, Colossians 1:15-20

15 He is the image of the unseen God, the first-born of all creation,

16 for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, thrones, ruling forces, sovereignties, powers -- all things were created through him and for him.

17 He exists before all things and in him all things hold together,

18 and he is the Head of the Body, that is, the Church. He is the Beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that he should be supreme in every way;

19 because God wanted all fullness to be found in him

20 and through him to reconcile all things to him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, by making peace through his death on the cross.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 100:1, 2, 3, 4, 5

1 [Psalm For thanksgiving] Acclaim Yahweh, all the earth,

2 serve Yahweh with gladness, come into his presence with songs of joy!

3 Be sure that Yahweh is God, he made us, we belong to him, his people, the flock of his sheepfold.

4 Come within his gates giving thanks, to his courts singing praise, give thanks to him and bless his name!

5 For Yahweh is good, his faithful love is everlasting, his constancy from age to age.

Gospel, Luke 5:33-39

33 They then said to him, 'John's disciples are always fasting and saying prayers, and the disciples of the Pharisees, too, but yours go on eating and drinking.'

34 Jesus replied, 'Surely you cannot make the bridegroom's attendants fast while the bridegroom is still with them?

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35 But the time will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them; then, in those days, they will fast.'

36 He also told them a parable, 'No one tears a piece from a new cloak to put it on an old cloak; otherwise, not only will the new one be torn, but the piece taken from the new will not match the old.

37 'And nobody puts new wine in old wineskins; otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins and run to waste, and the skins will be ruined.

38 No; new wine must be put in fresh skins.

39 And nobody who has been drinking old wine wants new. "The old is good," he says.'



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Questions for Reflection for September 5, 2025

1. In our first reading, Paul makes it quite clear that all things were created by God and that Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, is the very IMAGE of the Unseen God. WOW!

First, through "the Word" God the father made the entire Universe. And what an amazing creation it is! The universe exhibits a precision like nothing else. Scientists have identified dozens of variables which if they were different by even a fraction of a measurement, life on Earth could not exist.

The universe is more finely tuned than any instrument built by humanity, and it works perfectly. That's how we know, the universe with its vast scale, was created just for us. It's the perfect environment. And we have been appointed stewards of this creation, and it is right for us to acknowledge and give praise to God for it.

Tonight, if the skies are clear where you live, find a moment to look up at the stars, or to watch the sunset or tomorrow's sunrise. Take time to recognize God's handiwork in creation.

But there is so much more to Paul's message. He is also teaching the early Christians, and teaching us, that Jesus is the "first born" of a New Creation. In Jesus, all things are being RE-MADE, RE-CREATED - including each one of us! Jesus is the "first born" of a New Creation. And, through Baptism, we are incorporated into His Body, the Church, where we are to be made new and prepared for the Life to Come in a New Heaven and a New Earth!

There is so much more to the Gospel and the Christian faith than many contemporary Christians understand. Those early believers got it, and lived differently as a result. Do we?

2. In our responsorial psalm, we are invited to acclaim God, and to come into His presence singing with joy. Indeed, this is one of the reasons why we usually open Mass with a hymn! We are supposed to sing with joy! I invite you to find your singing voice, next time you attend Mass. Don't worry about how well you can carry the tune. What matters isn't how well we sing, but that we sing with joy. But, not just at Mass. The Apostle Paul told the early Christians to "address one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart". (Eph 5:19) Do we do this? We can. We should.



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3. In our Gospel, we find Jesus explaining that His followers do not fast. The Bridegroom, is still with them. Jesus is the Bridegroom, His Church the bride. But He also intimates that they will fast, once His Saving Act is accomplished and He ascends to the Father. But, even then, He will still be with us. He is the Head of the Church, which is His Body, and we will be joined to Him in that Church

He then uses the Image of wineskins, one very familiar to those whom He addressed, to explain the New Wine which is His teaching, and the New Covenant which He will seal in His Blood. This is what has happened. There is a new creation, joining the people of Israel with the Gentiles, in Jesus Christ - to form something new, the Church, with Jesus Christ at its head. The Church is the Body of Christ, the New Israel, the beginning of that New Creation, the seed of the Kingdom to come.

In its treatment of the Church, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

"845 To reunite all his children, scattered and led astray by sin, the Father willed to call the whole of humanity together into his Son's Church. The Church is the place where humanity must rediscover its unity and salvation. The Church is "the world reconciled." She is that bark which "in the full sail of the Lord's cross, by the breath of the Holy Spirit, navigates safely in this world." According to another image dear to the Church Fathers, she is prefigured by Noah's ark, which alone saves from the flood." The Catechism cites the early Fathers and the Bible in this beautiful section.

Yes, we fast, at appropriate times, as we await His Second Coming and seek to grow in holiness. But we are right to rejoice, for the Bridegroom is with us, and at His Altar, we give thanks. This is what the Eucharist is, a thanksgiving feast. But better than nourishing our bodies, it nourishes our soul.



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 6, 2025



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Daily Reading for Saturday, September 6th, 2025

Reading 1, Colossians 1:21-23

21 You were once estranged and of hostile intent through your evil behaviour;

22 now he has reconciled you, by his death and in that mortal body, to bring you before himself holy, faultless and irreproachable-

23 as long as you persevere and stand firm on the solid base of the faith, never letting yourselves drift away from the hope promised by the gospel, which you have heard, which has been preached to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become the servant.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 54:3-4, 6, 8

3 Arrogant men are attacking me, bullies hounding me to death, no room in their thoughts for God.

4 But now God is coming to my help, the Lord, among those who sustain me.

6 How gladly will I offer you sacrifice, and praise your name, for it is good,

Gospel, Luke 6:1-5

1 It happened that one Sabbath he was walking through the cornfields, and his disciples were picking ears of corn, rubbing them in their hands and eating them.

2 Some of the Pharisees said, 'Why are you doing something that is forbidden on the Sabbath day?'

3 Jesus answered them, 'So you have not read what David did when he and his followers were hungry-

4 how he went into the house of God and took the loaves of the offering and ate them and gave them to his followers, loaves which the priests alone are allowed to eat?'

5 And he said to them, 'The Son of man is master of the Sabbath.'

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Questions for Reflection for September 6, 2025

1. In our first reading, Paul explains to the Colossians that they were formerly estranged from God, but through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, they have been saved. In fact, they were more than estranged, some were, in the Apostles words, "of hostile intent". Perhaps that was the case with some of us as well?

We were all born in a state of Original Sin. A sin, the Catechism explains, which was "contracted" not committed. Passed on to us through our first parents' disobedience. Hear these words of the Catechism:

"By yielding to the tempter, Adam and Eve committed a personal sin, but this sin affected the human nature that they would then transmit in a fallen state. It is a sin which will be transmitted by propagation to all mankind, that is, by the transmission of a human nature deprived of original holiness and justice. And that is why original sin is called "sin" only in an analogical sense: it is a sin "contracted" and not "committed" - a state and not an act.

"Although it is proper to each individual, original sin does not have the character of a personal fault in any of Adam's descendants. It is a deprivation of original holiness and justice, but human nature has not been totally corrupted: it is wounded in the natural powers proper to it, subject to ignorance, suffering and the dominion of death, and inclined to sin - an inclination to evil that is called concupiscence".

The Catechism explains that "Baptism, by imparting the life of Christ's grace, erases original sin and turns a man back towards God, but the consequences for nature, weakened and inclined to evil, persist in man and summon him to spiritual battle." (CCC #404, 405)

Because of Original Sin, we were separated from God. Now, through Baptism into Jesus Christ, we are united to Him. Because of the "Paschal Mystery", the Incarnation, birth, saving life, suffering, sacrificial, voluntary death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have been reconciled to the Father and capacitated by grace to live our lives differently in Jesus, by living our lives in the Lord, in His Church. We are called to ongoing conversion, to holiness of life. As long as we persevere in our faith, we will be saved. We are saved, through Jesus, we are being saved, as we continue to cooperate with grace, and we hope to be saved, as we continue to persevere in faith.

2. In our responsorial psalm, we hear once again the assurance we need to hear continually, that God comes to help those who are attacked for their faith. Unfortunately, we live in a world where the faithful are under constant, relentless attack. Yet, the Church continues to grow, and we persevere in our faith. How can this be explained? It can only be understood as a miracle, for the Church has always flourished under persecution. Let this psalm be an encouragement to you.



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3. Our Gospel reinforces the understanding, that it is possible to know about the scriptures, to read the words, but to be ignorant of their meaning and to fail to fully experience the encounter with the living Word of God, Jesus Christ, to which they are meant to point. The law of the Old Covenant prohibited reaping and preparing food on the Sabbath, because it was a form of work. And the Sabbath was to be a day of worship and rest.

But the purpose of the law was so that people have time for worship and rest! And when people are hungry, love for neighbor requires that we allow them to eat. This is why David was allowed to eat the bread in the temple. Love is more important than sacrifice. And to underline the point, Jesus sealed His words by proclaiming that He, as the Son of God, was Lord of the Sabbath.

Let us remember that love comes first. Love of God, and love of neighbor is the whole rule and purpose of the law. And if we truly understand God's law, we will find there is no contradiction.



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 7, 2025



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Daily Reading for Sunday, September 7th, 2025

Reading 1, Wisdom 9:13-18

13 'What human being indeed can know the intentions of God? And who can comprehend the will of the Lord?

14 For the reasoning of mortals is inadequate, our attitudes of mind unstable;

15 for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the mind with its many cares.

16 It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?

17 And who could ever have known your will, had you not given Wisdom and sent your holy Spirit from above?

18 Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and people have been taught what pleases you, and have been saved, by Wisdom.'

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17

3 You bring human beings to the dust, by saying, 'Return, children of Adam.'

4 A thousand years are to you like a yesterday which has passed, like a watch of the night.

5 You flood them with sleep -- in the morning they will be like growing grass:

6 in the morning it is blossoming and growing, by evening it is withered and dry.

12 Teach us to count up the days that are ours, and we shall come to the heart of wisdom.

13 Come back, Yahweh! How long must we wait? Take pity on your servants.

14 Each morning fill us with your faithful love, we shall sing and be happy all our days;

15 let our joy be as long as the time that you afflicted us, the years when we experienced disaster.

16 Show your servants the deeds you do, let their children enjoy your splendour!

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17 May the sweetness of the Lord be upon us, to confirm the work we have done!

Reading 2, Philemon 1:9-10, 12-17

9 I am rather appealing to your love, being what I am, Paul, an old man, and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus.

10 I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus.

12 I am sending him back to you -- that is to say, sending you my own heart.

13 I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the gospel has brought me.

14 However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous.

15 I suppose you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, merely so that you could have him back for ever,

16 no longer as a slave, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, both on the natural plane and in the Lord.

17 So if you grant me any fellowship with yourself, welcome him as you would me;

Gospel, Luke 14:25-33

25 Great crowds accompanied him on his way and he turned and spoke to them.

26 'Anyone who comes to me without hating father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, cannot be my disciple.

27 No one who does not carry his cross and come after me can be my disciple.

28 'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it?

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29 Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, anyone who saw it would start making fun of him and saying,

30 "Here is someone who started to build and was unable to finish."

31 Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who was advancing against him with twenty thousand?

32 If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace.

33 So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple without giving up all that he owns.



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Questions for Reflection for September 7, 2025

1. Our first reading from the Book of Wisdom, makes it clear that we cannot FULLY know the intentions of God, for we are mortal, and limited. Indeed, the labor of thousands of mystics and scholars, many of whom dedicated their lives to understanding God, has not reached the Full summit of understanding the great beauty and fullness of God.

We should not respond to this fact with despair. Instead, we are called to respond with faith. We are called to accept and follow Jesus, in whom, the fullness of God was and is revealed. God has given us the Church, His word, the Sacraments, Sacred Tradition, and the Holy Spirit with all its gifts to guide us. And it is a testament to God, that these things are enough to produce saints and miracles, and a Church, through which God pours a never-ending river of grace into our world. And, by grace, we can grow closer and closer to God.

Let us not be intimidated by the greatness of God, but let us swim in it and enjoy it, for it is good. And, in Jesus Christ, we have now been given the fullness of God's revelation. We have seen the Face of God in the Face of Jesus Christ.

2. Our responsorial psalm has a reminder that we are mortal, and we will return to the dust from which we were created. Therefore, we are called to pursue wisdom, and to seek the sweetness of the Lord in this life. This is our mission, to accept our mortality and to spend our time seeking wisdom and the mercy of God in this life. Then, this life will open to eternal life.

Let us make sure that we spend time each day, studying the wisdom of God, and seeking His mercy in an ever-deepening prayer life. Do we pray at all times, as St Paul so often exhorts, or only in crisis? Do we frequent Holy Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Do we regularly read and study the Bible? Do we live a life which others would recognize as Christian? We are called to know, love and serve the Lord in this life. Is that our first priority?

3. In our second reading, Paul is writing to his friend and Christian brother, Philemon, asking that he pardon his escaped slave, Onesimus. You see, Onesimus has escaped from the custody of Paul's friend, Philemon, and has sought sanctuary with Paul in Rome. He has also become a Christian. Under the law, Paul had a responsibility to send him back. And the punishment for an escaped slave could be anything the master wished. But Paul called Philemon to live up to his Christian faith and treat Onesimus with mercy. Even more, to treat him as a brother, because in Jesus Christ, He is a brother.



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In the Gospel, we find Jesus admonishing that we must be prepared for the work He has entrusted to His Church. We are all called to the Christian mission, no matter what our state in life or job or vocation. Part of the call to carry the cross, to be a disciple, is to put Jesus Christ and the Christian mission before all else. In that sense, these readings tie together. To be a Christian is not simply about going to Mass on Sunday, it is to follow Jesus Christ on the Way and to live our lives now, in Him, with Him, and for Him. It includes the reordering of relationships, including those within the family.

Finally, Jesus gives two examples, the building of a tower and the preparation for battle to drive a point across. We must take stock of our preparations, if we hope to fruitfully and faithfully follow Jesus Christ. We must set aside our concerns for ourselves, count the cost, and put Him first. Have we done that?



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 8, 2025



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Daily Reading for Monday, September 8th, 2025

Reading 1, Micah 5:1-4

1 But you (Bethlehem) Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, from you will come for me a future ruler of Israel whose origins go back to the distant past, to the days of old.

2 Hence Yahweh will abandon them only until she who is in labour gives birth, and then those who survive of his race will be reunited to the Israelites.

3 He will take his stand and he will shepherd them with the power of Yahweh, with the majesty of the name of his God, and they will be secure, for his greatness will extend henceforth to the most distant parts of the country.

4 He himself will be peace! Should the Assyrian invade our country, should he set foot in our land, we shall raise seven shepherds against him, eight leaders of men;

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 13:6, 6

6 But I trust in your mercy, Grant my heart joy in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt bountifully with me!

Gospel, Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

1 Roll of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:

2 Abraham fathered Isaac, Isaac fathered Jacob, Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers,

3 Judah fathered Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez fathered Hezron, Hezron fathered Ram,

4 Ram fathered Amminadab, Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon,

5 Salmon fathered Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz fathered Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed fathered Jesse;

6 and Jesse fathered King David. David fathered Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

7 Solomon fathered Rehoboam, Rehoboam fathered Abijah, Abijah fathered Asa,

8 Asa fathered Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat fathered Joram, Joram fathered Uzziah,

9 Uzziah fathered Jotham, Jotham fathered Ahaz, Ahaz fathered Hezekiah,

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10 Hezekiah fathered Manasseh, Manasseh fathered Amon, Amon fathered Josiah;

11 and Josiah fathered Jechoniah and his brothers. Then the deportation to Babylon took place.

12 After the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah fathered Shealtiel, Shealtiel fathered Zerubbabel,

13 Zerubbabel fathered Abiud, Abiud fathered Eliakim, Eliakim fathered Azor,

14 Azor fathered Zadok, Zadok fathered Achim, Achim fathered Eliud,

15 Eliud fathered Eleazar, Eleazar fathered Matthan, Matthan fathered Jacob;

16 and Jacob fathered Joseph the husband of Mary; of her was born Jesus who is called Christ.

18 This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

19 Her husband Joseph, being an upright man and wanting to spare her disgrace, decided to divorce her informally.

20 He had made up his mind to do this when suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.

21 She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.'

22 Now all this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

23 Look! the virgin is with child and will give birth to a son whom they will call Immanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

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Questions for Reflection for September 8, 2025

1. The Lord Gave a promise through the Hebrew Prophet Micah that He would sending a future ruler who would restore His people in peace. As Christians, we know that Jesus is the Christ, the promised Messiah. Through Him all the promises of the Bible, in the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament, are being fulfilled. Jesus brings Peace to all who accept his rule and root their lives in Him. Have we done so?
2. David the Psalmist, in Psalm 13, tells us that true joy is found in recognizing the bounty the Lord has given to us. Are we living lives of gratitude to God for His gifts?
3. The Evangelist Matthew gives us the family genealogy of Jesus in order to show the Jewish people that He was the promised Messiah, the Christ. Jesus is IMMANUEL, God with us. Have we embraced Him as our Messiah today? Are we living our lives in a Way that reflects that?



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 9, 2025



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Daily Reading for Tuesday, September 9th, 2025

Reading 1, Colossians 2:6-15

6 So then, as you received Jesus as Lord and Christ, now live your lives in him,

7 be rooted in him and built up on him, held firm by the faith you have been taught, and overflowing with thanksgiving.

8 Make sure that no one captivates you with the empty lure of a 'philosophy' of the kind that human beings hand on, based on the principles of this world and not on Christ.

9 In him, in bodily form, lives divinity in all its fullness,

10 and in him you too find your own fulfilment, in the one who is the head of every sovereignty and ruling force.

11 In him you have been circumcised, with a circumcision performed, not by human hand, but by the complete stripping of your natural self. This is circumcision according to Christ.

12 You have been buried with him by your baptism; by which, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead.

13 You were dead, because you were sinners and uncircumcised in body: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us every one of our sins.

14 He has wiped out the record of our debt to the Law, which stood against us; he has destroyed it by nailing it to the cross;

15 and he has stripped the sovereignties and the ruling forces, and paraded them in public, behind him in his triumphal procession.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11

1 [Hymn of Praise Of David] I shall praise you to the heights, God my King, I shall bless your name for ever and ever.

2 Day after day I shall bless you, I shall praise your name for ever and ever.

8 Yahweh is tenderness and pity, slow to anger, full of faithful love.

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9 Yahweh is generous to all, his tenderness embraces all his creatures.

10 All your creatures shall thank you, Yahweh, and your faithful shall bless you.

11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingship and tell of your might,

Gospel, Luke 6:12-19

12 Now it happened in those days that he went onto the mountain to pray; and he spent the whole night in prayer to God.

13 When day came he summoned his disciples and picked out twelve of them; he called them 'apostles':

14 Simon whom he called Peter, and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew,

15 Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon called the Zealot,

16 Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot who became a traitor.

17 He then came down with them and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples, with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon

18 who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. People tormented by unclean spirits were also cured,

19 and everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him because power came out of him that cured them all.

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Questions for Reflection for September 9, 2025

1. In our reading from the Letter to the Colossians, we hear a warning from Paul about the empty lure of vain philosophies which are based on the principles of this world and not on the eternal truths revealed in Jesus Christ. This ancient warning is timeless and, in a special way, applies today. We are living in an age which could be characterized as a New Pagan Age. Men and women, indeed entire Nations, are rejecting the Natural Law and the truths of Revelation.

There are many secularist, worldly and counterfeit notions competing for our hearts and confusing many, including those who profess the ancient but ever new Catholic faith. But none of these worldly ideas can bring true human fulfillment, because fulfillment does not come from ideas which reject the truths fully revealed by God in His beloved Son. Fulfillment, human flourishing and happiness does not come from the things of this world. It comes from a Person, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Incarnate Word of God, Jesus Christ.

We must recognize that we were created as integrated human persons, body, soul and spirit. The separation which we all too often experience is a result of sin. We need a Savior to set us free. We need grace for the reintegration of body, soul and spirit. And without God, we remain separated and incomplete. This is why every single person on Earth is drawn to God. St Augustine put it so well "Our hearts are restless oh God, until they rest in you". Now, there is only one way to God, and that is through His Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Let us walk closely with the Lord and ask for the grace to recognize and remain undistracted by bankrupt ideologues and philosophies. Let us receive grace through the Sacraments, read the Word of God, pray more and more, stay in fellowship with other Catholics and find true fulfillment, body, soul and spirit, in Jesus Christ.

2. Our psalm for today reminds us to praise God, who is slow to anger, and full of faithful love. This is the kind of love parents have for their children, slow to anger, and faithful no matter what. God is the same! And we see this in His Sacraments, especially Reconciliation, whereby we can begin anew as often as we need. Remember, God loves you!
3. In today's Gospel reading, we find Jesus calling forth twelve men to become Apostles. But notice, before this he "spent the night in prayer! Before Jesus made this profoundly important decision of choosing the twelve, he spent the entire night in prayer. Remember, in His Sacred humanity he shows us the pattern for our own lives.

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So, I asked myself today, "how many nights have I spent in prayer making the important decisions of my life?" Yet, throughout the accounts of the earthly life of Jesus we find Him in this kind of prayer. He lived in a continual communion with the Father. His prayer opened the heavens, healed the sick, raised the dead, brought provision to the hungry, gave him clarity for making decisions and brought the glory of heaven to earth.

Prayer still can do all of this - for those who learn its ways and live their lives immersed in God. That is what prayer truly means, living our lives in the Lord and Him living His life in and through us. Through prayer we recover the capacity for a communion of love with the living God and plunge ourselves into its embrace. Prayer becomes a process of Love exchanged for love. In its classroom we learn how to live in the real stuff of our everyday lives while maintaining a communion with God. This is how we should live. We are his disciples. In the Greek language, the word disciple means both student and "a person who is sent," or an "ambassador."

The Lord continues His ministry now, through His Body, the Church, of which we are members. He still heals and delivers men and women through the ministry of the Church. And we are his hands and feet. We need the power of God in our own lives to do the ministry now entrusted to us. Let us decide today to make prolonged times of prayer a part of our lives. Watch what begins to happen as the Lord ministers through us for others.



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 10, 2025



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Daily Reading for Wednesday, September 10th, 2025

Reading 1, Colossians 3:1-11

1 Since you have been raised up to be with Christ, you must look for the things that are above, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.

2 Let your thoughts be on things above, not on the things that are on the earth,

3 because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God.

4 But when Christ is revealed -- and he is your life-you, too, will be revealed with him in glory.

5 That is why you must kill everything in you that is earthly: sexual vice, impurity, uncontrolled passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as worshipping a false god;

6 it is precisely these things which draw God's retribution upon those who resist.

7 And these things made up your way of life when you were living among such people,

8 but now you also must give up all these things: human anger, hot temper, malice, abusive language and dirty talk;

9 and do not lie to each other. You have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self,

10 and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its Creator;

11 and in that image there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised and uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13

2 Day after day I shall bless you, I shall praise your name for ever and ever.

3 Great is Yahweh and worthy of all praise, his greatness beyond all reckoning.

10 All your creatures shall thank you, Yahweh, and your faithful shall bless you.

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11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingship and tell of your might,

12 making known your mighty deeds to the children of Adam, the glory and majesty of your kingship.

13 Your kingship is a kingship for ever, your reign lasts from age to age. Yahweh is trustworthy in all his words, and upright in all his deeds.

Gospel, Luke 6:20-26

20 Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: How blessed are you who are poor: the kingdom of God is yours.

21 Blessed are you who are hungry now: you shall have your fill. Blessed are you who are weeping now: you shall laugh.

22 'Blessed are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of man.

23 Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, look!-your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

24 But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

25 Alas for you who have plenty to eat now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who are laughing now: you shall mourn and weep.

26 'Alas for you when everyone speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.

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Questions for Reflection for September 10, 2025

1. In today's first reading, Paul talks about what it is to be a Christian, how our faith in Christ should change our day-to-day behavior.

Sadly, there are too many Christians who live as though they don't really believe in God. Their day-to-day behavior is no different than that of a person who does not know Jesus Christ. They may go to Mass but all week, they engage in the kinds of behavior Paul is warning us about. The consequences for this kind of lifestyle are grave. Worse yet, these people can cause others to sin, and their behavior can discourage some from seeking Christ.

Before they were called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26) the followers of Jesus Christ were referred to as "the Way". The Apostle Paul wrote of having persecuted "this Way" prior to encountering the Risen Lord on the Road to Damascus. (Acts 22:3-16) The expression, "The Way" discloses the self-understanding of the early Christians. They believed, proclaimed and lived their Christian faith as a new way of being human. Our relationship with Jesus Christ and membership in His Body, the Church, is meant to be experienced in the same way.

It is important then, that we also recognize that we are being watched by others. That our behavior is a reflection of the sincerity of our sincere belief. And if we are sincere in our belief in Christ, then we should live and act differently from those who reject Him or act as though He is irrelevant.

2. Our responsorial psalm contains a profoundly important line, God's kingship lasts from age to age, his reign lasts forever. Indeed, throughout all of recorded history, many secular rulers and reigns have come and gone. But God's reign is forever. It simply takes the eyes of living faith, as David had, to recognize His reign and to live differently, under His reign. David had that kind of faith. Do we?
3. Today, we hear a portion of the Sermon on the Plain from the Gospel of Luke. If it sounds familiar, it's because many of Jesus' words are the same as the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew.

The sermon speaks to several fundamental truths at the heart of Christian teaching. One is that our fulfillment is ultimately in heaven, not on earth. Because of this, we should not obsess over the things of this world. Instead of storing up wealth we can never use, we ought to look after the needs of one another. Instead of using our talents for our own selfish ends, we should put them to work for the Lord. This is another important truth, when we do this, we begin to bring that kingdom which is to come into this world and become a sign and instrument of the Kingdom. We also experience genuine happiness.

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In fact, the word translated "blessed" can be translated happy. Jesus and His apostles epitomized this, living day-to-day, working as they went, and sharing the Gospel no matter what they faced.

Now, for most of us that means sharing the Gospel in our words and in our deeds, and using the talents we have to serve as ambassadors for Christ, right where we are at. And if our service to God renders us less "affluent" in this world's riches, so what! God's generosity towards those who love him is endless and everlasting.

Pope St Leo the Great once wrote of Jesus: He took the nature of a servant without stain of sin, enlarging our humanity without diminishing his divinity. He emptied himself; though invisible he made himself visible, though Creator and Lord of all things he chose to be one of us mortal men. Yet this was the condescension of compassion, not the loss of omnipotence. So he, who in the nature of God had created man, became in the nature of a servant, man himself.

God became the least of these. Will we do the same? It is the path to true happiness. There is a call to happiness planted within every human person as a seed. Beatitude or happiness finds its perfect expression in the teaching of Jesus Christ in the Sermon on the Mount and this Sermon on the Plain. It was lived and demonstrated in His Sacred humanity, which is a model for all human beings.

It is meant to be replicated in the life of each man and women who is baptized into His Church and learns to live in beatitude, beginning now.

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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 11, 2025



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Daily Reading for Thursday, September 11th, 2025

Reading 1, Colossians 3:12-17

12 As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom he loves, you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience.

13 Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same.

14 Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond.

15 And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together in one body. Always be thankful.

16 Let the Word of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God;

17 and whatever you say or do, let it be in the name of the Lord Jesus, in thanksgiving to God the Father through him.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 150:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

1 Alleluia! Praise God in his holy place, praise him in the heavenly vault of his power,

2 praise him for his mighty deeds, praise him for all his greatness.

3 Praise him with fanfare of trumpet, praise him with harp and lyre,

4 praise him with tambourines and dancing, praise him with strings and pipes,

5 praise him with the clamour of cymbals, praise him with triumphant cymbals,

6 Let everything that breathes praise Yahweh. Alleluia!

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Gospel, Luke 6:27-38

27 'But I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly.

29 To anyone who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek as well; to anyone who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic.

30 Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from someone who takes it.

31 Treat others as you would like people to treat you.

32 If you love those who love you, what credit can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them.

33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit can you expect? For even sinners do that much.

34 And if you lend to those from whom you hope to get money back, what credit can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount.

35 Instead, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

36 'Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.

37 Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven.

38 Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap; because the standard you use will be the standard used for you.'

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Questions for Reflection for September 11, 2025

1. Our first reading reminds us that we are to be patient with one another, compassionate and forgiving. The root of the word compassion means to enter into the suffering of another. In a sense, to bear it for and with them.

The early Christians suffered many injustices, both at the hands of the state, and even the hands of one another, as Paul's letter attests. But when it comes to taking revenge, to righting injustices, all too often we become consumed by the effort. We may hurt ourselves and others, as much as we might hope to hurt our perpetrators. In a way, our pride becomes our god, and our anger is the worship. This is why we must forgive.

Understand that to forgive does not mean we allow injustices to go without challenge, or that we must forget. It means that we must trust that God and others will handle the matter of justice. And it is our work to prevent injustice from consuming our souls and to become more like the One who entered into our human condition so that we could be transformed in Him. Pope St Leo wrote:

"He took the nature of a servant without stain of sin, enlarging our humanity without diminishing his divinity. He emptied himself; though invisible he made himself visible, though Creator and Lord of all things he chose to be one of us mortal men. Yet this was the condescension of compassion, not the loss of omnipotence. So he who in the nature of God had created man, became in the nature of a servant, man himself."

2. Our responsorial psalm reminds us that we should praise God, for all His greatness, always. I invite you to take some time today to offer thanks and praise to God, for all He has done for you. You can do this in prayer, or perhaps by singing a hymn, or performing an act of charity and love. Whatever you do, do it with a prayerful heart and mind, and may it bring you joy.
3. In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks about loving our enemies, and those who treat us badly. But why?

As Christians, we are going to have enemies. An authentic Christian life is fundamentally opposed to evil and those who perpetrate it, so it is impossible for us to avoid opposition. Jesus knew so He explained how we must behave in the face of this reality.

Now, we are told to love our enemies, but this does not mean we are required to physically embrace them. This is not what Jesus meant.

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Instead, we are to pray for them and hope for, even work for, their salvation. If we are wronged, we should not pursue revenge, but do that which turns our oppressors' minds towards the Lord.

By acting as a witness, as a martyr (for that is what the word means) we testify to God's goodness and grace. After all, nobody dies for something they know to be a lie. By giving of ourselves to those who do evil, we show that there exists a loving community of Christians into which all are invited. This is powerful!

Countless times, evildoers have repented, mentioning that their conversion was sparked by the goodness of those they persecuted. According to legend, even the Centurion Longinus, the man who pierced Jesus' side, converted to Christianity and is a saint of the Church.

Understand that when we love enemies, when we set aside our personal thirst for revenge, we can help to make saints of people who would otherwise be lost. And this is what it means to love our enemies.



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 12, 2025



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Daily Reading for Friday, September 12th, 2025

Reading 1, First Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14

1 Paul, apostle of Christ Jesus appointed by the command of God our Saviour and of Christ Jesus our hope,

2 to Timothy, true child of mine in the faith. Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Christ Jesus our Lord.

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength. By calling me into his service he has judged me trustworthy,

13 even though I used to be a blasphemer and a persecutor and contemptuous. Mercy, however, was shown me, because while I lacked faith I acted in ignorance;

14 but the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11

1 [In a quiet voice Of David] Protect me, O God, in you is my refuge.

2 To Yahweh I say, 'You are my Lord, my happiness is in none

5 My birthright, my cup is Yahweh; you, you alone, hold my lot secure.

7 I bless Yahweh who is my counsellor, even at night my heart instructs me.

8 I keep Yahweh before me always, for with him at my right hand, nothing can shake me.

11 You will teach me the path of life, unbounded joy in your presence, at your right hand delight for ever.

Gospel, Luke 6:39-42

39 He also told them a parable, 'Can one blind person guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit?

40 Disciple is not superior to teacher; but fully trained disciple will be like teacher.

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41 Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the great log in your own?

42 How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out that splinter in your eye," when you cannot see the great log in your own? Hypocrite! Take the log out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter in your brother's eyes.



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Questions for Reflection for September 12, 2025

1. The letter of Paul to Timothy is the source of our first reading. In today's excerpt, Paul mentions that he was once himself a blasphemer and a persecutor of Christians. What changed Paul was his encounter with the risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Like Paul, we too are invited to encounter Jesus. Through prayerful reception of the Sacraments, through prayer, through the reflective reading of scripture, we too can encounter Jesus Christ. In fact, this is what the Greek word for sacrament actually means, it means a mystery that must be encountered to experience.

Whatever our ways in the past, we can and should expect to be transformed by our encounter with the Risen Jesus Christ. Let us be open to this encounter as we go about our daily lives. In his first encyclical letter, the *Light of Faith* - which Pope Francis acknowledged was written with Pope Emeritus Benedict - we find the word encounter woven throughout the text. That is because Pope Benedict also emphasized the centrality of an encounter with Jesus. He regularly taught that Christianity is not some-thing, but an encounter with Some-One, the One who lives no more to die and who is encountered through living faith. In the *Light of Faith*, we read:

"Faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love, a love which precedes us and upon which we can lean for security and for building our lives. Transformed by this love, we gain fresh vision, new eyes to see; we realize that it contains a great promise of fulfillment, and that a vision of the future opens up before us." (*Light of Faith*, #4)

2. Our responsorial psalm tells us that God is a refuge. Indeed, the news of the day can sometimes get us down. We can face difficult times at work, or even in our homes. When the troubles of this world become too much, remember God offers himself as a place of refuge where you can rest and recharge.

If you feel you need a break, consider attending Eucharistic adoration, or simply visiting your parish chapel to pray. If you cannot get away, try to make some time for yourself at home, or in a quiet place you enjoy. Take refuge in the Lord. Offer up to Him all your troubles and anxieties. You may be surprised that the more you do this, the easier things become.

3. One of the messages which we can derive from today's Gospel is a warning against hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is a common accusation hurled at Christians, and sadly, it all too often fits. We are human, and none of us are immune from falling into hypocrisy. We all fall short of the Christian ideal, which is why we have the Sacrament of Confession!

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It is not the falling down that gets us in trouble. It's the failure to get up. And we make things worse when we judge others by a standard which we cannot keep ourselves. It's also a waste of energy, when we have our own work to do.

So let us work on ourselves, walking straight, in the Way of the Cross. let us learn to avoid pitfalls. Let us grow in our reliance on the Lord and continually seek His grace, His Divine Life, to always make us more like Jesus. And, when we fail and fall, let us get back up. Let us take full advantage of the Sacrament of new beginnings, the Sacrament of confession and reconciliation.



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection September 13, 2025



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Daily Reading for Saturday, September 13th, 2025

Reading 1, First Timothy 1:15-17

15 Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them;

16 and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the leading example of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who were later to trust in him for eternal life.

17 To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 113:1-2, 3-4, 5, 6-7

1 Alleluia! Praise, servants of Yahweh, praise the name of Yahweh.

2 Blessed be the name of Yahweh, henceforth and for ever.

3 From the rising of the sun to its setting, praised be the name of Yahweh!

4 Supreme over all nations is Yahweh, supreme over the heavens his glory.

5 Who is like Yahweh our God? His throne is set on high,

6 but he stoops to look down on heaven and earth.

7 He raises the poor from the dust, he lifts the needy from the dunghill,

Gospel, Luke 6:43-49

43 'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit.

44 Every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles.

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45 Good people draw what is good from the store of goodness in their hearts; bad people draw what is bad from the store of badness. For the words of the mouth flow out of what fills the heart.

46 'Why do you call me, "Lord, Lord" and not do what I say?

47 'Everyone who comes to me and listens to my words and acts on them -- I will show you what such a person is like.

48 Such a person is like the man who, when he built a house, dug, and dug deep, and laid the foundations on rock; when the river was in flood it bore down on that house but could not shake it, it was so well built.

49 But someone who listens and does nothing is like the man who built a house on soil, with no foundations; as soon as the river bore down on it, it collapsed; and what a ruin that house became!'



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Questions for Reflection for September 13, 2025

1. In our first reading for today's Holy Mass, the Apostle Paul is writing to his disciple Timothy whom he had ordained and placed over the Corinthian Church. After warning the young man to avoid false teachers who were already confusing many of the faithful, he reminded him of the great mercy and grace of the Lord.

Paul calls himself the "chief among sinners". He knew that it was and is only by God's grace that he had been taken from the life he had lived, persecuting Christians, to following Jesus and becoming an apostle. It was all be grace, the gift of God.

So, it is with you and with me.

2. Realizing this great gift of God's grace, we were then invited to sing along with the Prophet and Psalmist David "Praised be the name of the Lord" We have so much to be thankful for. When we begin to praise the Lord, we are drawn into His presence and we begin to see all of life differently. That is why we are invited to spend time every day in praise. How are we doing?
3. In the Gospel today, we read words from Jesus to his disciples concerning how they should live their lives. We are to produce fruit for the Lord and His Kingdom. In order to be fruitful, we need to make Jesus the foundation, the Rock, of our lives. It is time to make an honest assessment. We should ask this question, "On what foundation are we building?" We are living in increasingly turbulent times. The turmoil seems to be happening so often that we are no longer even surprised by it.

Everywhere one looks, we see a shaking of the foundations upon which we once relied.

However, Christians need not be afraid. Our life together in the Lord, our connection together in Body of Christ, the Church, is meant to provide a place of shelter, not only for us, but for others who seek stability as the shaking continues all around.

Yes, the Church is also being shaken. However, that shaking is for her purification, fortification and reform. The Apostle Peter reminded the early Christians undergoing persecution that judgment begins in the household of faith. (1 Peter 4:17) So too does the shaking (See, Heb 12).

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews also reminds us "we who are receiving the unshakable kingdom should have gratitude, with which we should offer worship pleasing to God in reverence and awe." (Heb 12:28) Through our Baptism we now live in the in the Body of Christ. All who bear the name Christian, even if we are divided, are somehow still joined together in that Church which is founded upon Jesus Christ. It is the only place of safety.

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The shaking will continue. False foundations, some of which have lulled even some believers into complacency, may soon fall under the stress caused by the growing unrest and decline.

But there is a place where we can stand secure and strong. And, from where we must reach out to those who are succumbing to the fear being unleashed in the hearts of men, women and Nations. That place has an unshakable foundation. That place is the Body of Christ, the Church. That is where we must stand - and stand together.



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 14, 2025



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Daily Reading for Sunday, September 14th, 2025

Reading 1, Numbers 21:4-9

4 They left Mount Hor by the road to the Sea of Suph, to skirt round Edom. On the way the people lost patience.

5 They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in the desert? For there is neither food nor water here; we are sick of this meagre diet.'

6 At this, God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel.

7 The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against Yahweh and against you. Intercede for us with Yahweh to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people,

8 and Yahweh replied, 'Make a fiery serpent and raise it as a standard. Anyone who is bitten and looks at it will survive.'

9 Moses then made a serpent out of bronze and raised it as a standard, and anyone who was bitten by a serpent and looked at the bronze serpent survived.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 78:1-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38

1 [Psalm Of Asaph] My people, listen to my teaching, pay attention to what I say.

2 I will speak to you in poetry, unfold the mysteries of the past.

34 Whenever he slaughtered them, they began to seek him, they turned back and looked eagerly for him,

35 recalling that God was their rock, God the Most High, their redeemer.

36 They tried to hoodwink him with their mouths, their tongues were deceitful towards him;

37 their hearts were not loyal to him, they were not faithful to his covenant.

38 But in his compassion he forgave their guilt instead of killing them, time and again repressing his anger instead of rousing his full wrath,

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Reading 2, Philippians 2:6-11

6 Who, being in the form of God, did not count equality with God something to be grasped.

7 But he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming as human beings are; and being in every way like a human being,

8 he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

9 And for this God raised him high, and gave him the name which is above all other names;

10 so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus

11 and that every tongue should acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel, John 3:13-17

13 No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of man;

14 as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so must the Son of man be lifted up

15 so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

16 For this is how God loved the world: he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 For God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

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Questions for Reflection for September 14, 2025

1. Our reading in the Book of Numbers tells of the misfortune that befell the people of Israel after they spoke against God and His servant Moses. The Lord had rescued them from slavery and fed them with bread from heaven. Yet, that wonderful provision is now being cursed by them as a "meagre diet". What had changed? They had. They failed to recognize that God was still doing a great work among them. They were being taught patience, humility, and faith. They turned away from Him and toward themselves. They should have remained grateful for their deliverance from Egypt.

The punishment for their sin, serpents. But, God, in His Mercy, even in their sin, delivered them. He instructed Moses to place a serpent, a sign of their disobedience, on a pole and those who looked upward would be spared.

Like the Israelites, we can become impatient with God, and upset when God does not work miracles, the way we think He should, for us. In our anger and impatience, we sometimes forget how much the Lord has done for us. Our psalm response reminds us that we must approach God with fear and awe. He always shows His Mercy. The question is, are we turned toward Him, or toward ourselves.

2. In the Apostle Paul's Letter to the Philippians, we read about the self-emptying love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ. He emptied Himself for us. The Greek word "kenosis" is translated emptying. It literally means to be poured out.

The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Word through whom God made the whole universe, become one like us, except as the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us, without sin. Then, He took our sins upon Himself, and nailed them to the Cross so that we could be set free for a New Way of Life. The Way of the Gospel is the Way of being poured out for the Lord, and in Him, poured out for others.

3. Our Gospel brings together today's readings. Notice the obvious symbolic connection between the serpent on the pole in the first reading from the Hebrew Scriptures and Jesus, who took upon our sins and was lifted up on the Cross to save us from them. Through the voluntary sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we have all been saved from the venom of that most fiery serpent, Satan.

When Jesus is lifted up on the Cross, He draws all men and women to Himself. Key to our salvation is humility. We cannot save ourselves! We must choose to repent of our sin, invite Jesus to save us, and allow the greatest physician of all to heal us.

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And He is here, working through the Church. Our medicine is His Word and the Sacraments, and if we take our medicine as prescribed, we shall be healed, and saved.

Today is the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in the Liturgical Calendar of the Catholic Church. Let us be grateful for the gift of life and salvation. They are the gifts that matter, right now and into eternity.



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 15, 2025



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Daily Reading for Monday, September 15th, 2025

Reading 1, Hebrews 5:7-9

7 During his life on earth, he offered up prayer and entreaty, with loud cries and with tears, to the one who had the power to save him from death, and, winning a hearing by his reverence,
8 he learnt obedience, Son though he was, through his sufferings;
9 when he had been perfected, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 31:2-3, 3-4, 5-6, 15-16, 20

2 turn your ear to me, make haste. Be for me a rock-fastness, a fortified citadel to save me.
3 You are my rock, my rampart; true to your name, lead me and guide me!
4 Draw me out of the net they have spread for me, for you are my refuge;
5 to your hands I commit my spirit, by you have I been redeemed. God of truth,
6 you hate those who serve useless idols; but my trust is in Yahweh:
15 every moment of my life is in your hands, rescue me from the clutches of my foes who pursue me;
16 let your face shine on your servant, save me in your faithful love.
20 Safe in your presence you hide them, far from human plotting, shielding them in your tent, far from contentious tongues.

Gospel, John 19:25-27

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.
26 Seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.'
27 Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

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Questions for Reflection for September 15, 2025

1. The Author of Hebrews addresses the humanity of Jesus. He learned obedience through what He suffered. In that, his mission was completed in His free act of giving His Life for us. How do we respond to suffering and struggle in our own lives, when it is not taken away? Do we join it to the sufferings of Christ?
2. The Psalmist sings of the safety we can find in placing our lives totally in God's hands. Have we done that today? Do we do it every day?
3. Before giving His last drop of blood for our redemption, Jesus gave a special gift to His Beloved disciple John. He gave Him His own Mother, Mary. In that He also gave her to His Body, the Church, of which we are members through Baptism. Have we taken Mary into our home and heart? Do we receive her as a gift from Jesus?



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 16, 2025



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Daily Reading for Tuesday, September 16th, 2025

Reading 1, First Timothy 3:1-13

- 1 Here is a saying that you can rely on: to want to be a presiding elder is to desire a noble task.
- 2 That is why the presiding elder must have an impeccable character. Husband of one wife, he must be temperate, discreet and courteous, hospitable and a good teacher;
- 3 not a heavy drinker, nor hot-tempered, but gentle and peaceable, not avaricious,
- 4 a man who manages his own household well and brings his children up to obey him and be well-behaved:
- 5 how can any man who does not understand how to manage his own household take care of the Church of God?
- 6 He should not be a new convert, in case pride should turn his head and he incur the same condemnation as the devil.
- 7 It is also necessary that he be held in good repute by outsiders, so that he never falls into disrepute and into the devil's trap.
- 8 Similarly, deacons must be respectable, not double-tongued, moderate in the amount of wine they drink and with no squalid greed for money.
- 9 They must hold to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.
- 10 They are first to be examined, and admitted to serve as deacons only if there is nothing against them.
- 11 Similarly, women must be respectable, not gossips, but sober and wholly reliable.
- 12 Deacons must be husbands of one wife and must be people who manage their children and households well.
- 13 Those of them who carry out their duties well as deacons will earn a high standing for themselves and an authoritative voice in matters concerning faith in Christ Jesus.

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Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 101:1-2, 2-3, 5, 6

1 [Of David Psalm] I will sing of faithful love and judgement; to you, Yahweh, will I make music.

2 I will go forward in the path of the blameless; when will you come to me? I will live in purity of heart, in my house,

3 I will not set before my eyes anything sordid. I hate those who act crookedly; this has no attraction for me.

5 One who secretly slanders a comrade, I reduce to silence; haughty looks, proud heart, these I cannot abide.

6 I look to the faithful of the land to be my companions, only he who walks in the path of the blameless shall be my servant.

Gospel, Luke 7:11-17

11 It happened that soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people.

12 Now when he was near the gate of the town there was a dead man being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople was with her.

13 When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her and said to her, 'Don't cry.'

14 Then he went up and touched the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, 'Young man, I tell you: get up.'

15 And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

16 Everyone was filled with awe and glorified God saying, 'A great prophet has risen up among us; God has visited his people.'

17 And this view of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

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Questions for Reflection for September 16, 2025

1. In today's first reading, Paul makes it clear that there were qualifications to be an elder in the early church, a presbyter. That word can also be translated priest. Paul refers to the fact that he should have an impeccable character. He explains how to know if a person has such character. Notice these qualifications are to be evident in the way an elder lives. Faith is more than words; it is a verb. It is meant to engage our entire life, and be evident in our lifestyle. The Apostle also addresses the qualities of a Deacon, which are very similar. And the qualities of women who exercised any leadership among other women in the early Church.

To discern a vocation in the Lord is an important thing. But, in the early Church, it was not a volunteer position. It was recognized by the early Bishops (the successors of the Apostles) and the faithful. Then it was called forth. It was to be evident in the Way of Life and recognized. This criteria should still be operating in the Church. The word Vocation, in its Latin root, means to hear a voice. The voice we should be listening for is the voice of the Lord.

2. Our responsorial psalm continues with the theme of impeccability, with the psalmist pledging to walk a blameless path. But the psalmist also pledges solidarity with others of blameless character, and vows to make companions of them alone. This speaks to an important, but often unspoken rule. As Christians, we should keep company with other Christians. This is especially important when it comes to choosing a spouse.

This does not mean we cannot have friendships outside of our Church. Indeed, we are called to love all people. But we must also be discerning, especially when it comes to starting a family.

3. Today, we hear that Jesus raised a man from the dead. Among all the miracles Jesus worked, the ones where He raised the dead are the most awe-inspiring. He then consoled the grieving mother with the words, "Don't cry."

As a deacon, one of the toughest parts of my job has been to preside over the burial of children. The grief is palatable. Yet, Jesus' entire mission was to rescue us from death, something he accomplished through His own very public death and resurrection.

We understand human mourning. We understand that it has a purpose, and while it diminishes in intensity over time, we never truly get past the loss of a loved one, especially a child. However, we must console ourselves with Jesus' words, "Don't cry." Because Jesus will raise us, our children, and all of the faithful from the dead. And this is the Good News of the Gospel.

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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 17, 2025



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Daily Reading for Wednesday, September 17th, 2025

Reading 1, First Timothy 3:14-16

14 I write this to you in the hope that I may be able to come to you soon;

15 but in case I should be delayed, I want you to know how people ought to behave in God's household - that is, in the Church of the living God, pillar and support of the truth.

16 Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is very deep indeed: He was made visible in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed to the gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

1 Alleluia! I give thanks to Yahweh with all my heart, in the meeting-place of honest people, in the assembly.

2 Great are the deeds of Yahweh, to be pondered by all who delight in them.

3 Full of splendour and majesty his work, his saving justice stands firm for ever.

4 He gives us a memorial of his great deeds; Yahweh is mercy and tenderness.

5 He gives food to those who fear him, he keeps his covenant ever in mind.

6 His works show his people his power in giving them the birthright of the nations.

Gospel, Luke 7:31-35

31 'What comparison, then, can I find for the people of this generation? What are they like?

32 They are like children shouting to one another while they sit in the market place: We played the pipes for you, and you wouldn't dance; we sang dirges, and you wouldn't cry.

33 'For John the Baptist has come, not eating bread, not drinking wine, and you say, "He is possessed."

34 The Son of man has come, eating and drinking, and you say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners."

35 Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.'

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Questions for Reflection for September 17, 2025

1. In our reading from Timothy, Paul explains why he is writing his letter. He expects Timothy to serve as Christ's representative in his absence, and to remain steadfast and faithful to the Gospel.

This is also why the letter from Paul is in the canon of the Bible today. It contains a precise series of instructions for how the Church of the living God ought to be guided, straight from the heart of one of the first apostles.

The Bible is more than just a book of stories. It is an instruction manual for how to do many things, including for how a church, a household, and even a business are to be run. I encourage all of you to spend more time reading the Bible and realizing that these letters from St Paul were written to people like you and me. Ordinary people, called to become extraordinary, by cooperating with grace.

Joined together, through Baptism, into the Body of Christ. In Catholic theology and practice, we teach -and we are called to practice - the truth that the early fathers, Saints and Councils throughout the ages have affirmed; to belong to Jesus is to belong to His Body, the Church. Our membership in the Church is a very real participation in the life of God; what the Apostle Peter referred to as a "participation in the Divine nature". (2 Peter 1:4) This kind of real, tangible experience of life in the Church is meant to be the lived experience of every Baptized Christian. For that to happen, we need to pray, read the written Word of God, frequent the Sacraments and allow the Lord to transform us. e.

2. In our responsorial Psalm, David speaks of the "meeting place of honest people, in the assembly. That is a reference to the synagogue, where faithful Jews gathered to worship. For Christians, the Church is that meeting place. Yes, we gather in churches, and they should be sacred and holy places, where people encounter the majesty and mystery of God. But, the Church is more than a building, it is a communion, with the Father, in and through the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

David leads us with his inspired words which we hear and recite, in honoring God by proclaiming the fact He is merciful. God keeps His covenant in mind, and He does not abandon us, or forget His promises. Let us proclaim God's goodness, and rest assured that He will keep His promises to us, and bless us, all the days of our lives.

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3. In today's Gospel, Jesus remarks how difficult it is to get the people to pay attention. He is dealing with apathy, a problem that is common on our day as well.

Here was Jesus, working tirelessly to proclaim the Good News and save the souls of those around Him, and they would rather do anything but listen! Sound familiar? As we have seen, throughout the Bible, the problems we face today are not unlike the problems faced in Biblical times. The people for whom Jesus came, would not listen to John the Baptizer or Him.

Apathy is a lack of interest and concern. It can be dangerous when it comes to certain things, like our home or car, our child's education, our health. But it is especially dangerous when it comes to something like our soul and our eternal destiny. In an age full of challenges, here is a challenge from Jesus. Let us put down our phones, switch off our televisions, stop acting like spoiled children. Let us learn to pray, to live our lives in Him, to spend more time in the Bible, a gleaning the wisdom contained within it. Let us spend time before the Blessed Sacrament. In short, let us choose to listen to the Lord, for He is speaking. Are we listening?



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 18, 2025



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Daily Reading for Thursday, September 18th, 2025

Reading 1, First Timothy 4:12-16

12 Let no one disregard you because you are young, but be an example to all the believers in the way you speak and behave, and in your love, your faith and your purity.

13 Until I arrive, devote yourself to reading to the people, encouraging and teaching.

14 You have in you a spiritual gift which was given to you when the prophets spoke and the body of elders laid their hands on you; do not neglect it.

15 Let this be your care and your occupation, and everyone will be able to see your progress.

16 Be conscientious about what you do and what you teach; persevere in this, and in this way you will save both yourself and those who listen to you.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 111:7-8, 9, 10

7 The works of his hands are fidelity and justice, all his precepts are trustworthy,

8 established for ever and ever, accomplished in fidelity and honesty.

9 Deliverance he sends to his people, his covenant he imposes for ever; holy and awesome his name.

10 The root of wisdom is fear of Yahweh; those who attain it are wise. His praise will continue for ever.

Gospel, Luke 7:36-50

36 One of the Pharisees invited him to a meal. When he arrived at the Pharisee's house and took his place at table,

37 suddenly a woman came in, who had a bad name in the town. She had heard he was dining with the Pharisee and had brought with her an alabaster jar of ointment.

38 She waited behind him at his feet, weeping, and her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them away with her hair; then she covered his feet with kisses and anointed them with the ointment.

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39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would know who this woman is and what sort of person it is who is touching him and what a bad name she has.'

40 Then Jesus took him up and said, 'Simon, I have something to say to you.' He replied, 'Say on, Master.'

41 'There was once a creditor who had two men in his debt; one owed him five hundred denarii, the other fifty.

42 They were unable to pay, so he let them both off. Which of them will love him more?'

43 Simon answered, 'The one who was let off more, I suppose.' Jesus said, 'You are right.'

44 Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, 'You see this woman? I came into your house, and you poured no water over my feet, but she has poured out her tears over my feet and wiped them away with her hair.

45 You gave me no kiss, but she has been covering my feet with kisses ever since I came in.

46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.

47 For this reason I tell you that her sins, many as they are, have been forgiven her, because she has shown such great love. It is someone who is forgiven little who shows little love.'

48 Then he said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.'

49 Those who were with him at table began to say to themselves, 'Who is this man, that even forgives sins?'

50 But he said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'

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Questions for Reflection for September 18, 2025

1. In our first reading, the Apostle Paul instructs Timothy to be an example to all by his words and his life. St Paul established Timothy as a Bishop over the Church at Ephesus. He was a young man, and probably faced some insecurity, being given such a daunting pastoral assignment. This is something we must keep in mind as Christians. Just as there were people watching to see if Timothy made any mistakes, so there are others watching us.

Some people watch us because they want to see us live up to the Christian ideal. And if we fall short, and let's face it, we are humans and we all fall short, they will watch to see how we respond. Do our actions match our words? When we err, do we apologize, seek reconciliation, and strive to do better?

How many times have we heard a person complain, they will not go to church because it is filled with hypocrites? No person can reasonably expect perfection, but they can expect that our words and our deeds match. The best way to silence our critics is not with debate, but by setting a Christian example worthy of being followed.

2. Our responsorial psalm reminds us that the root of wisdom is fear of Yahweh. Let us remember that fear of God doesn't mean we cower before Him. It means we respect His justice, just as we respect the justice of our parents. When we see God as our spiritual father, we see that both love and fear have a place in our hearts.
3. In today's Gospel, Jesus forgives a woman with a poor reputation. When his host objects, Jesus explains that the person who was forgiven more is also more grateful.

Sometimes, it happens that we commit a sin, and the shame of our sin is so great, we refuse to go to confession. We never seek forgiveness. Perhaps we cannot bear to put words to our misdeeds, or we cannot show our face to the priest. This is a real danger and an impediment to grace. It is also why the seal of confession exists, and why the penitent has the right to remain anonymous in the confessional.

Understand two important things. First, God knows the truth of the matter. Even if we have deceived ourselves, even if we have escaped worldly consequences, we cannot escape from God who is all knowing. Second, God is all-merciful, willing to forgive every sin, no matter how serious. If you must, visit another parish to seek reconciliation. But whatever you do, do not die with the stain of mortal sin on your soul. Seek God's mercy and allow Him to forgive you! The power of grace is tremendous, and it transforms lives every day.

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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 19, 2025



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Daily Reading for Friday, September 19th, 2025

Reading 1, First Timothy 6:2-12

2 Those whose masters are believers are not to respect them less because they are brothers; on the contrary, they should serve them all the better, since those who have the benefit of their services are believers and dear to God. This is what you are to teach and urge.

3 Anyone who teaches anything different and does not keep to the sound teaching which is that of our Lord Jesus Christ, the doctrine which is in accordance with true religion,

4 is proud and has no understanding, but rather a weakness for questioning everything and arguing about words. All that can come of this is jealousy, contention, abuse and evil mistrust;

5 and unending disputes by people who are depraved in mind and deprived of truth, and imagine that religion is a way of making a profit.

6 Religion, of course, does bring large profits, but only to those who are content with what they have.

7 We brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it;

8 but as long as we have food and clothing, we shall be content with that.

9 People who long to be rich are a prey to trial; they get trapped into all sorts of foolish and harmful ambitions which plunge people into ruin and destruction.

10 'The love of money is the root of all evils' and there are some who, pursuing it, have wandered away from the faith and so given their souls any number of fatal wounds.

11 But, as someone dedicated to God, avoid all that. You must aim to be upright and religious, filled with faith and love, perseverance and gentleness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith and win the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made your noble profession of faith before many witnesses.

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Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20

6 They trust in their wealth, and boast of the profusion of their riches.

7 But no one can ever redeem himself or pay his own ransom to God,

8 the price for himself is too high; it can never be

9 that he will live on for ever and avoid the sight of the abyss.

10 For he will see the wise also die no less than the fool and the brute, and leave their wealth behind for others.

17 when he dies he will take nothing with him, his wealth will not go down with him.

18 Though he pampered himself while he lived -- and people praise you for looking after yourself--

19 he will go to join the ranks of his ancestors, who will never again see the light.

20 In prosperity people lose their good sense, they become no better than dumb animals.

Gospel, Luke 8:1-3

1 Now it happened that after this he made his way through towns and villages preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. With him went the Twelve,

2 as well as certain women who had been cured of evil spirits and ailments: Mary surnamed the Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out,

3 Joanna the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their own resources.

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Questions for Reflection for September 19, 2025

1. Our first reading for today's Holy Mass is taken from the first letter of the Apostle Paul to Timothy. Paul had disciplined Timothy, trained him, and set him over an early church. He is instructing him on various matters related to his leadership of the Church. In this passage he reminds Timothy- and you and me - to stay faithful to the true and sound teaching of the church and avoid who veer away from sound doctrine.

He also reminds him of how a Christians should relate to the goods of this world and not grow attached to things, over people. In short, to be content and stay focused on the Lord. He will provide what we need. And finally, to "compete well for the faith". To pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love patience and gentleness. Good advice for all of us who are Christians, followers of the Lord. How are we doing?

2. In our Responsorial Psalm. We use the words of the Lord Jesus who calls us to be "poor in spirit" and reminds us "for such is the kingdom of God." And David's words reminding us that we cannot redeem ourselves.

We need not fear anyone or anything because the Lord is with us. He is all we need. Finally, our Psalm reminds us that we take nothing with us when we die. I once heard a sermon by the late, great evangelical pastor, Dr Billy Graham who said he never saw a Hearse in a funeral procession towing a U-Haul.

3. Our Gospel passage, taken from the 8th chapter of St. Luke reminds us of the holy women who followed the Lord Jesus and contributed so much to His earthly ministry. The Biblical account should put to flight any who claim that women had little to do with the ministry of Jesus. That is simply not the case.

When the Father wanted to send His Son to save the whole world, He chose a woman, a Virgin named Mary, to be the Mother of the Redeemer. Her Yes, Her "FIAT" changed history! She became a living tabernacle while He began his Redemptive mission from her womb and continued to serve an unparalleled role as the Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Mother of the Church.

On the morning of the Resurrection, it was the women who saw the angels at the tomb. It was a woman who was a witness to the empty tomb. Pope St John Paul in an Apostolic Letter on the dignity of women wrote: "From the beginning of Christs mission, women show to Him and to His mystery, a special sensitivity which is characteristic of their femininity. It must also be said that this is especially confirmed in the Paschal Mystery, not only at the cross, but at the dawn of the Resurrection."



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 20, 2025



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Daily Reading for Saturday, September 20th, 2025

Reading 1, Wisdom 3:1-9

- 1 But the souls of the upright are in the hands of God, and no torment can touch them.
- 2 To the unenlightened, they appeared to die, their departure was regarded as disaster,
- 3 their leaving us like annihilation; but they are at peace.
- 4 If, as it seemed to us, they suffered punishment, their hope was rich with immortality;
- 5 slight was their correction, great will their blessings be. God was putting them to the test and has proved them worthy to be with him;
- 6 he has tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a perfect burnt offering.
- 7 At their time of visitation, they will shine out; as sparks run through the stubble, so will they.
- 8 They will judge nations, rule over peoples, and the Lord will be their king for ever.
- 9 Those who trust in him will understand the truth, those who are faithful will live with him in love; for grace and mercy await his holy ones, and he intervenes on behalf of his chosen.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 125:1-5

- 1 [Song of Ascents] Whoever trusts in Yahweh is like Mount Zion: unshakeable, it stands for ever.
- 2 Jerusalem! The mountains encircle her: so Yahweh encircles his people, henceforth and for ever.
- 3 The sceptre of the wicked will not come to rest over the heritage of the upright; or the upright might set their own hands to evil.
- 4 Do good, Yahweh, to those who are good, to the sincere at heart.
- 5 But the crooked, the twisted, turn them away, Yahweh, with evil-doers. Peace to Israel!

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Gospel, Luke 9:23-26

23 Then, speaking to all, he said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross every day and follow me.

24 Anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, will save it.

25 What benefit is it to anyone to win the whole world and forfeit or lose his very self?

26 For if anyone is ashamed of me and of my words, of him the Son of man will be ashamed when he comes in his own glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels.



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Questions for Reflection for September 20, 2025

1. In our first reading, Paul tells Timothy to avoid resentment of masters and the wealthy. The ancient world was a place of vast inequality, and slavery was considered a normal practice. But the mission of the Apostles was not first to change the political order of things. Although, as the Church spread, her influence on the social order increased. But the mission of the Church was - and still is, the salvation of souls. To convert the hearts of all people, whether they were master or slave, rich or poor, to Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ, all men and women are set free. Free to become servants of the Lord and one another.

As Paul noted, there is only one kind of wealth worth pursuing, and it's spiritual. We cannot take earthly wealth with us. But what robs us of our spiritual wealth is resentment. Resentment is fertile ground for sin.

We may not be able to change the political and economic circumstances of our time overnight. And while some consider these circumstances unjust, we must look beyond that to what is truly important, the salvation of all. For if we expect complete justice from this world, we will be disappointed. But if we look for true freedom and justice in Jesus Christ, we will be satisfied.

2. Our responsorial psalm warns that material wealth isn't a boast-worthy achievement, for when we die, it gets left for another. We are all equal, whether rich or poor, wise or a fool. If we concern ourselves with our worldly riches, more than our true riches, we miss the mark. That is what sin is. And, unless we turn away from sin, we will also miss the greatest treasure, salvation. So let us look to our salvation first, for that is what matters. All else is a distraction.
3. The Gospel for today is a short but important one. It reminds us that Jesus and the Twelve were sustained by a group of women who provided for them out of their own resources. What's remarkable here is that Jesus accepted the help of others. He could have created all the food and wealth He needed, but instead, He was humble enough to accept help from others. He also gave them an opportunity to encounter the beauty of giving themselves away to others. Finally, this passage makes very clear the esteem and respect Jesus showed to woman and the fact that they were always a vital part of His mission.

One lesson is to be willing to accept help, as well as to be willing to give help. Sometimes, we allow our pride to get in the way, and we struggle needlessly. Perhaps we fear looking weak, or the judgement of others. But this is why we have a Church. The Church is here to provide spiritual, and at times, material help to those in need. And for those of us with resources, let us give generously to the Church, for it is our sacrifice which changes us, and allows the Church to do the many good works it does.

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Another lesson is also to show the same kind of respect for the vital role of women in the ongoing ministry of the Church that Jesus showed and shows. In 1988, Pope St John Paul II wrote a beautiful apostolic letter entitled "On the Dignity and Vocation of Women" in which we read these words:

"It is universally admitted - even by people with a critical attitude towards the Christian message - that in the eyes of his contemporaries Christ became a promotor of women's true dignity and of the vocation corresponding to this dignity. At times this caused wonder, surprise, often to the point of scandal: "They marvelled that he was talking with a woman" (Jn 4:27), because this behaviour differed from that of his contemporaries. Even Christ's own disciples "marvelled".

We are the contemporary disciples of Jesus Christ and we need to show the same kind of respect and love for the gift of women to the Church that He did - and does.



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 21, 2025



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Daily Reading for Sunday, September 21st, 2025

Reading 1, Amos 8:4-7

4 Listen to this, you who crush the needy and reduce the oppressed to nothing,

5 you who say, 'When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn, and Sabbath, so that we can market our wheat? Then, we can make the bushel-measure smaller and the shekel-weight bigger, by fraudulently tampering with the scales.

6 We can buy up the weak for silver and the poor for a pair of sandals, and even get a price for the sweepings of the wheat.'

7 Yahweh has sworn by the pride of Jacob, 'Never will I forget anything they have done.'

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8

1 Alleluia! Praise, servants of Yahweh, praise the name of Yahweh.

2 Blessed be the name of Yahweh, henceforth and for ever.

4 Supreme over all nations is Yahweh, supreme over the heavens his glory.

5 Who is like Yahweh our God? His throne is set on high,

6 but he stoops to look down on heaven and earth.

7 He raises the poor from the dust, he lifts the needy from the dunghill,

8 to give them a place among princes, among princes of his people.

Reading 2, First Timothy 2:1-8

1 I urge then, first of all that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving should be offered for everyone,

2 for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live peaceful and quiet lives with all devotion and propriety.

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3 To do this is right, and acceptable to God our Saviour:

4 he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and humanity, himself a human being, Christ Jesus,

6 who offered himself as a ransom for all. This was the witness given at the appointed time,

7 of which I was appointed herald and apostle and -- I am telling the truth and no lie -- a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

8 In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

Gospel, Luke 16:1-13

1 He also said to his disciples, 'There was a rich man and he had a steward who was denounced to him for being wasteful with his property.

2 He called for the man and said, "What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer."

3 Then the steward said to himself, "Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed.

4 Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to welcome me into their homes."

5 'Then he called his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, "How much do you owe my master?"

6 "One hundred measures of oil," he said. The steward said, "Here, take your bond; sit down and quickly write fifty."

7 To another he said, "And you, sir, how much do you owe?" "One hundred measures of wheat," he said. The steward said, "Here, take your bond and write eighty."

8 'The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.'

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9 'And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into eternal dwellings.

10 Anyone who is trustworthy in little things is trustworthy in great; anyone who is dishonest in little things is dishonest in great.

11 If then you are not trustworthy with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches?

12 And if you are not trustworthy with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?

13 'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or be attached to the first and despise the second. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'



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Questions for Reflection for September 21, 2025

1. Our first reading condemns both cheating in business, being a corrupt steward, and for false piety. These greedy merchants seemed to only observe the Sabbath for appearance sake, so that they could build a false reputation for adhering to the commandment. They had no real desire to worship or obey the commands of the Lord. Rather, they simply wanted to cheat the community they were called to serve and advance themselves. The greed of some and their willingness to exploit the poor around them was just as common then as it is now. It is a form of idolatry. People are used as objects, rather than honored as gifts. The warning to the dishonest is the same today. God sees what they do, and it is remembered.

Cheating in business is offensive to the Lord. It is sin. When those who have wealth and power cheat to increase what they have, at the expense of those who have barely enough, they are sinning. It is not their wealth which causes this behavior, it is their corrupted hearts. They have given into a form of idolatry. Whether you are an employer, or a worker, or a customer, be honest in your dealings with others. Be fair in your transactions, and do not take advantage. For the Lord sees what we do, and if we harm others by cheating them, it is to Him we shall answer.

2. Our responsorial psalm reminds us that the poor have a special place before God. He raises the poor and the needy to give them a place among the princes of His people. The Lord values all people, especially those we tend to forget. In fact, the Catholic Church, following the clear teaching of the Lord Jesus, gives a special love to the poor.
3. In our Gospel, a steward has been caught in poor stewardship of what had been entrusted to him to manage. He is about to be cast out where he will be unable to work and survive on his own. Realizing he is caught; the steward uses his position to reduce the debts of others so he could find more work among them when he needed it. For this, he is praised.

We are all, in a sense, the steward who failed to recognize that all we have is a gift - and that we are called to stewardship which honors God. We have all been given talents and wealth from God - but do we see all of these as gifts? Have we used these talents and gifts for His service? What will we say when we are called to give an account for how we used the wealth and the gifts entrusted to us?

The lesson to each of us is that we must use our resources and gifts to serve the Lord in this life - and thereby prepare for the life that is to come. Using our wealth and talents to make only ourselves comfortable in this life is a form of self-idolatry. It fails to understand that all that the Lord has given to us is a gift, to be given back to Him and to others. It all belongs to Him.

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This kind of idolatry will keep us from eternal life if it is not repented of and another way of life chosen instead. Let us be "shrewd" as the steward was and recognize that all we have has been given. Let us help others and not use others. This will bring us the kind of true fulfillment in life we seek and help us to find favor at the moment of judgement, when we need it the most.



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 22, 2025



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Daily Reading for Monday, September 22nd, 2025

Reading 1, Ezra 1:1-6

1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia -- to fulfil the word of Yahweh spoken through Jeremiah - Yahweh roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom:

2 'Cyrus king of Persia says this, "Yahweh, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and has appointed me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah.

3 Whoever among you belongs to the full tally of his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem, in Judah, and build the Temple of Yahweh, God of Israel, who is the God in Jerusalem.

4 And let each survivor, wherever he lives, be helped by the people of his locality with silver, gold, equipment and riding beasts, as well as voluntary offerings for the Temple of God which is in Jerusalem."

5 Then the heads of families of Judah and of Benjamin, the priests and the Levites, in fact all whose spirit had been roused by God, prepared to go and rebuild the Temple of Yahweh in Jerusalem;

6 and all their neighbours gave them every kind of help: silver, gold, equipment, riding beasts and valuable presents, in addition to their voluntary offerings.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 126:1-3, 4-5, 6

1 [Song of Ascents] When Yahweh brought back Zion's captives we lived in a dream;

2 then our mouths filled with laughter, and our lips with song. Then the nations kept saying, 'What great deeds Yahweh has done for them!'

3 Yes, Yahweh did great deeds for us, and we were overjoyed.

4 Bring back, Yahweh, our people from captivity like torrents in the Negeb!

5 Those who sow in tears sing as they reap.

6 He went off, went off weeping, carrying the seed. He comes back, comes back singing, bringing in his sheaves.

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Gospel, Luke 8:16-18

16 'No one lights a lamp to cover it with a bowl or to put it under a bed. No, it is put on a lamp-stand so that people may see the light when they come in.

17 For nothing is hidden but it will be made clear, nothing secret but it will be made known and brought to light.

18 So take care how you listen; anyone who has, will be given more; anyone who has not, will be deprived even of what he thinks he has.'



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Questions for Reflection for September 22, 2025

1. In our first reading, Paul tells Timothy to avoid resentment of masters and the wealthy. The ancient world was a place of vast inequality, and slavery was considered a normal practice. But the mission of the Apostles was not first to change the political order of things. Although, as the Church spread, her influence on the social order increased. But the mission of the Church was - and still is, the salvation of souls. To convert the hearts of all people, whether they were master or slave, rich or poor, to Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ, all men and women are set free. Free to become servants of the Lord and one another.

As Paul noted, there is only one kind of wealth worth pursuing, and it's spiritual. We cannot take earthly wealth with us. But what robs us of our spiritual wealth is resentment. Resentment is fertile ground for sin.

We may not be able to change the political and economic circumstances of our time overnight. And while some consider these circumstances unjust, we must look beyond that to what is truly important, the salvation of all. For if we expect complete justice from this world, we will be disappointed. But if we look for true freedom and justice in Jesus Christ, we will be satisfied.

2. Our responsorial psalm warns that material wealth isn't a boast-worthy achievement, for when we die, it gets left for another. We are all equal, whether rich or poor, wise or a fool. If we concern ourselves with our worldly riches, more than our true riches, we miss the mark. That is what sin is. And, unless we turn away from sin, we will also miss the greatest treasure, salvation. So let us look to our salvation first, for that is what matters. All else is a distraction.
3. The Gospel for today is a short but important one. It reminds us that Jesus and the Twelve were sustained by a group of women who provided for them out of their own resources. What's remarkable here is that Jesus accepted the help of others. He could have created all the food and wealth He needed, but instead, He was humble enough to accept help from others. He also gave them an opportunity to encounter the beauty of giving themselves away to others. Finally, this passage makes very clear the esteem and respect Jesus showed to woman and the fact that they were always a vital part of His mission.

One lesson is to be willing to accept help, as well as to be willing to give help. Sometimes, we allow our pride to get in the way, and we struggle needlessly. Perhaps we fear looking weak, or the judgement of others. But this is why we have a Church. The Church is here to provide spiritual, and at times, material help to those in need. And for those of us with resources, let us give generously to the Church, for it is our sacrifice which changes us, and allows the Church to do the many good works it does.

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Another lesson is also to show the same kind of respect for the vital role of women in the ongoing ministry of the Church that Jesus showed and shows. In 1988, Pope St John Paul II wrote a beautiful apostolic letter entitled "On the Dignity and Vocation of Women" in which we read these words:

"It is universally admitted - even by people with a critical attitude towards the Christian message - that in the eyes of his contemporaries Christ became a promotor of women's true dignity and of the vocation corresponding to this dignity. At times this caused wonder, surprise, often to the point of scandal: "They marvelled that he was talking with a woman" (Jn 4:27), because this behaviour differed from that of his contemporaries. Even Christ's own disciples "marvelled".

We are the contemporary disciples of Jesus Christ, and we need to show the same kind of respect and love for the gift of women to the Church that He did - and does.



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 23, 2025



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Daily Reading for Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025

Reading 1, Ezra 6:7-8, 12, 14-20

7 Leave the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews alone, to get on with their work on that Temple of God; they are permitted to rebuild that Temple of God on that site.

8 And herewith are my instructions as to how you will assist these elders of the Jews in the rebuilding of that Temple of God: the cost is to be paid in full to these men from the royal revenue, that is, from the taxes of Transeuphrates, and without interruption.

12 and may the God who has caused his name to live there overthrow the king of any people who dares to defy this and destroy that Temple of God in Jerusalem! I, Darius, have issued this order. Let it be punctiliously obeyed!

14 and the elders of the Jews made good progress over their building, thanks to the prophetic activity of the prophet Haggai and Zechariah son of Iddo, completing the reconstruction in accordance with the command of the God of Israel and the order of Cyrus and of Darius.

15 This Temple was completed on the twenty-third day of the month of Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

16 The Israelites -- the priests, the Levites and the remainder of the exiles -- joyfully celebrated the dedication of this Temple of God;

17 for the dedication of this Temple of God they offered one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs and, as a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he-goats, corresponding to the number of the tribes of Israel.

18 Then they installed the priests in their orders and the Levites in their positions for the ministry of the Temple of God in Jerusalem, as prescribed in the Book of Moses.

19 The exiles celebrated the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month.

20 The Levites, as one man, had purified themselves; all were pure, so they sacrificed the Passover for all the exiles, for their brothers the priests and for themselves.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5

1 [Song of Ascents Of David] I rejoiced that they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of Yahweh.'

2 At last our feet are standing at your gates, Jerusalem!

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3 Jerusalem, built as a city, in one united whole,

4 there the tribes go up, the tribes of Yahweh, a sign for Israel to give thanks to the name of Yahweh.

5 For there are set the thrones of judgement, the thrones of the house of David.

Gospel, Luke 8:19-21

19 His mother and his brothers came looking for him, but they could not get to him because of the crowd.

20 He was told, 'Your mother and brothers are standing outside and want to see you.'

21 But he said in answer, 'My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and put it into practice.'



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Questions for Reflection for September 23, 2025

1. Our first reading continues the account of how the people of Israel, returned from exile, rebuilt Jerusalem and the Temple. They celebrated the opening of the Temple with sacrifices.

At this time, the people of Jerusalem were poor, and they faced dangers from enemies around them, yet they celebrated their restoration. We too are called to restoration, and celebration, no matter our means or the circumstances of our lives. God is at work among us. We are a part of the Church, the Body of His Son, Jesus Christ.

When we have sinned, when we are exiled from God by our wrong choices, our errors, and we are invited to restoration through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We can begin and begin and begin again. And we are invited to celebrate this new beginning with the Eucharist, which means thanksgiving. Jesus is our sacrifice, for His atonement makes us whole again, as Christians. And He feeds us on Himself, His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, communicated to us in this Most Holy Sacrament.

Just as the people of Israel celebrated the restoration of Jerusalem and its Temple, so we too are right to celebrate our restoration as Christians.

2. Our responsorial psalm is a happy one, expressing joy that the psalmist has arrived as an invited guest to the House of Yahweh. We too should be happy that we have been invited to the gates of a New Jerusalem, the Church itself. And in this New Jerusalem is the Kingdom of Heaven, where there rules Jesus Christ, Our Lord, for ever and ever.
3. Our Gospel is a short and simple. But, extremely important. It is a reminder that Christ's family are those who hear the word of God and put it into practice. Is there any better definition of a Christian, or of the Church?

There are many who profess membership in the Christian Church, but not all understand the real implications. It means a new way of living. To be a Christian is not only to attend Mass or wear a crucifix. Though, both are commendable. Our challenge as Christians is not only to attend Mass regularly, but also to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. It is to receive the Sacraments, and to share the Gospel through both word and action. We are the very family of Jesus Christ.

As one who teaches and preaches in the Catholic Church and the broader Christian community, I am often asked about whether Jesus had brothers and sisters.

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If by that question is meant natural or blood relatives, the text and the unbroken Christian tradition make the answer clear - No. But the passage has a much deeper meaning.

Failure to consider the original language of the text has led to a mistaken notion of the possibility of Jesus having brothers in his natural family. The reality is that the word used for extended family, a vital part of the Jewish understanding of family, is not accurately translated.

Sadly, since the unfortunate ruptures in the Church since the Protestant Reformation (and there is plenty of blame to go around), this particular misinterpretation has been amplified and used in polemics. Such an exercise not only adds to the unfortunate divisions among Christians, it misses the meaning and beauty of the passage.

Unfortunately, some have also argued that these passages stand for the proposition that Jesus was making a comment intended to lessen the importance of his earthly mother. This "mother is unimportant" interpretation is textually inaccurate and theologically mistaken.

It runs contrary to the biblical context of the encounter and rejects the consistent, unbroken Christian tradition concerning its profound meaning. Such a misreading ascribes a minimalist role to Mary in the Christian revelation and consequently in the life of every Christian.

It can cause us to miss a profound truth concerning the Christian life and vocation - as well as the meaning of the Church. It can discourage us from digging deeper into the text and grasping a profoundly important insight. This insight has great implications and can lead us to a deeper experience of the Christian life and vocation.

I stand with the ancient Christian tradition, rooted in what is called the Patristic literature (writings of the early Church fathers). The opposite of this "mother is less important" claim is what is being revealed through these words - and in this encounter.

Understood in this light, this passage reveals a framework for an authentically human and relational spirituality, a spirituality of communion. We are made members of the very family of God through Jesus Christ and His saving Incarnation. We are his mothers, brothers and sisters, as we live His Word and walk in His Way.

Through our Baptism, we are all invited into the very family of God. When we choose to be obedient to the will and the Word of God; we enter into an eternal relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We actually become a part of the "family" of God; we become "mother" sister" and "brother" to the Lord. We enter into "communion" with the Trinitarian God, through Jesus Christ.

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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 24, 2025



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Daily Reading for Wednesday, September 24th, 2025

Reading 1, Ezra 9:5-9

5 At the evening sacrifice I came out of my stupor and, falling on my knees in my torn clothes and cloak, stretched out my hands to Yahweh my God,

6 and said: 'My God, I am ashamed, I blush to lift my face to you, my God. For our iniquities have increased, until they are higher than our heads, and our guilt has risen as high as heaven.

7 From the days of our ancestors until now we have been deeply guilty and, because of our iniquities, we, our kings and our priests, have been handed over to the kings of other countries, to the sword, to captivity, to pillage, to shame, as is the case today.

8 And now, for a brief moment, the favour of Yahweh our God has allowed a remnant of us to escape and given us a stable home in his holy place, so that our God can raise our spirits and revive us a little in our slavery.

9 For we are slaves; but God has not forgotten us in our slavery; he has extended his faithful love to us even under the kings of Persia and revived us to rebuild the Temple of our God, restore its ruins and provide us with a refuge in Judah and in Jerusalem.

Responsorial Psalm, Tobit 13:2, 3-4, 6, 7-8, 6

2 For he both punishes and pardons; he sends people down to the depths of the underworld and draws them up from utter Destruction; no one can escape his hand.

3 Declare his praise before the nations, you who are the children of Israel! For if he has scattered you among them,

4 there too he has shown you his greatness. Extol him before all the living; he is our Lord and he is our God; he is our Father, and he is God for ever and ever.

6 If you return to him with all your heart and all your soul, behaving honestly towards him, then he will return to you and hide his face from you no longer. Consider how well he has treated you; loudly give him thanks. Bless the Lord of justice and extol the King of the ages. I for my part sing his praise in the country of my exile; I make his power and greatness known to a nation that has sinned. Sinners, return to him; let your conduct be upright before him; perhaps he will be gracious to you and take pity on you.

7 I for my part extol God and my soul rejoices in the King of heaven. Let his greatness

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8 be on every tongue, his praises be sung in Jerusalem.

Gospel, Luke 9:1-6

1 He called the Twelve together and gave them power and authority over all devils and to cure diseases,

2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

3 He said to them, 'Take nothing for the journey: neither staff, nor haversack, nor bread, nor money; and do not have a spare tunic.

4 Whatever house you enter, stay there; and when you leave let your departure be from there.

5 As for those who do not welcome you, when you leave their town shake the dust from your feet as evidence against them.'

6 So they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the good news and healing everywhere.



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Questions for Reflection for September 24, 2025

1. In our first reading, we find an example of God's mercy and love for the repentant. Although Israel had erred and sinned, God did not forsake His People. He still cared for His people, even using foreign kings to help restore Jerusalem and the Temple. Ezra the scribe fasted and repented, because of the faithlessness of the Jewish people. Then, He gives thanks, because even though the people of Israel continued to intermarry, did not live the commandments, failed to listen to the prophets, and failed to live the covenant, the Lord did not forsake them. He loved them.

This should encourage us. The Lord always gives His Mercy, to those who turn to Him. No matter what we have done in the past, God gives second chances, and third, and fourth.... A new beginning is available to us, and it can even come from unexpected places. What is needed is our response of repentance and choice to once again obey and follow the Lord, living His ways.

If you seek a new beginning, begin with repentance. Then offer thanks and praise. Believe that a new beginning is available to you, and that God can work miracles in your life too.

2. In our responsorial, we are given a roadmap "If you return to him with all your heart and all your soul, behaving honestly towards him, then he will return to you and hide his face from you no longer. Consider how well he has treated you; loudly give him thanks" A path of repentance and restoration. By returning to God with your heart and soul, and behaving honestly toward God, we will be restored. Remember, David sinned. He sinned greatly. But, after the fall, he repented. He got back up and followed the Lord

If you have made an error in your life, if you have sinned, take encouragement from today's reading. God is ready and willing to restore you. He provides all we need.

3. When Jesus sent forth the Apostles to do His work, He gave them the instructions and tools they needed. He gave them authority, even over devils. This authority has been passed down through the generations to our Church today.

One way this authority is passed is through the laying-on of hands. Did you know there is an unbroken line of people, beginning with the Apostles, laying hands, all the way down to your Bishop, parish priest and Deacon?

We have been all been anointed and restored, through the Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist. And we have also been given the tools we need.

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Now, like the Apostles, we have a mission to spread the Gospel in our day. In 2012, we commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council in the Catholic Church.

The teaching concerning missionary activity both at the Second Vatican Council and since then has been that the Church is by nature missionary and that every baptized Christian participates in that mission. Our task is to be missionaries, in every nation and to every culture. That understanding lies at the heart of what it means to be a Christian - we carry forward in time the redemptive mission of Jesus Christ. He still sends us them two by two.

We are them - the ones he sends in this hour. He still works His saving and redemptive mission in and through us, because we are members of His Mystical Body, the Church. The Catholic Church has always taught that every single human being on the face of the earth has a right to hear the liberating Gospel message of Jesus Christ as fully revealed in the heart of His Catholic Church.

That will be accomplished in this hour by you and me, no matter what our state in life, or specific vocation. We are all baptized into Christ to participate in the saving mission of His Church. Let us share the Gospel where it is welcome. And even where it is unwelcome, in both our words and our life witness.



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 25, 2025



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Daily Reading for Thursday, September 25th, 2025

Reading 1, Haggai 1:1-8

1 In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of Yahweh was addressed through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel governor of Judah and to Joshua son of Jehozadak the high priest as follows,

2 'Yahweh Sabaoth says this, "This people says: The time has not yet come to rebuild the Temple of Yahweh." '

3 (And the word of Yahweh was addressed through the prophet Haggai, as follows,)

4 'Is this a time for you to live in your panelled houses, when this House lies in ruins?

5 So now, Yahweh Sabaoth says this, "Think carefully about your behaviour.

6 You have sown much and harvested little; you eat but never have enough, drink but never have your fill, put on clothes but feel no warmth. The wage-earner gets his wages only to put them in a bag with a hole in it."

7 Yahweh Sabaoth says this, "Think carefully about your behaviour.

8 Go up into the hills, fetch timber and rebuild the House; and I shall take pleasure in it and manifest my glory there -- Yahweh says.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 9

1 Alleluia! Sing a new song to Yahweh: his praise in the assembly of the faithful!

2 Israel shall rejoice in its Maker, the children of Zion delight in their king;

3 they shall dance in praise of his name, play to him on tambourines and harp!

4 For Yahweh loves his people, he will crown the humble with salvation.

5 The faithful exult in glory, shout for joy as they worship him,

6 praising God to the heights with their voices, a two-edged sword in their hands,

9 to execute on them the judgement passed -- to the honour of all his faithful.

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Gospel, Luke 9:7-9

7 Meanwhile Herod the tetrarch had heard about all that was going on; and he was puzzled, because some people were saying that John had risen from the dead,

8 others that Elijah had reappeared, still others that one of the ancient prophets had come back to life.

9 But Herod said, 'John? I beheaded him. So who is this I hear such reports about?' And he was anxious to see him.



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Questions for Reflection for September 25, 2025

1. Our first reading is about priorities. The people of Jerusalem, tasked with rebuilding the Temple, have not focused on the assignment. They have pursued superficial things, they have turned from their first love, and as a result, they have no satisfaction. They are building their own houses and not the House of the Lord. And so, the people are told through the Prophet that they must focus on the Temple, and only then and there will they find fulfillment.

The same is true of our lives. We focus on all sort of things, often trivial matters. We spend time in idle gossip, idle pursuits, and we make aimless busywork for ourselves. We forget our purpose; we were made for the Lord. And, then we wonder why we cannot find satisfaction or rest. St Augustine put it this way in a wonderful prayer. "You have made us for yourself O Lord and our hearts are restless until they rest in you"

Here is our answer! Here is our way forward. If we shift our perspective from a secular one to a Christian one, we will see clearly what we must do. Our mission is to serve the Lord. To discern our Christian vocation, and to perform the work God has set for us. Only then will we find the sense of satisfaction we seek, which comes from God alone. We are a living temple of the Lord. The Lord Himself has taken up His Residence within us. He now lives His Life in us and through us.

2. In today's responsorial psalm we are invited to sing a new song to the Lord. To continually offer praises to Yahweh. We are to be a people of worship. Not just on the Lords Day, but every day. If we truly believe the Lord is real. That He is our salvation. If we have living faith in a living God, how can we refrain from singing? Take time to today to sing your own hymn of praise, or to say a prayer of thanksgiving to God for all He has done. Watch what happens. Cultivate a lifestyle of continuous praise.
3. Our Gospel for today tells us that Herod Antipas, the man who beheaded Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, wanted to meet Jesus. From what we know of Herod's character, he likely considered Jesus a curiosity at best, or at worst, a rival for power. If anything, Herod probably wanted to see what he could gain from Jesus. This passage is a reminder that attitude and motivation truly matter.

How do we encounter Jesus? If we regard Jesus with cynicism, what can we hope to gain? But if we regard Jesus as the Incarnate Word of the Father, the Savior sent to redeem us. If we listen to His Teaching and seek to live it. If we worship Him as the Lord of Lords and the Head of His Church, His Body, of which we are members, then we gain everything.

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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 26, 2025



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Daily Reading for Friday, September 26th, 2025

Reading 1, Haggai 1:15--2:9

15 This was on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month. In the second year of King Darius,

1 on the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of Yahweh was addressed through the prophet Haggai, as follows,

2 'You are to speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel governor of Judah, to Joshua son of Jehozadak the high priest and to the remnant of the people. Say this,

3 "Is there anyone left among you who saw this Temple in its former glory? And how does it look to you now? Does it not seem as though there is nothing there?

4 But take courage now, Zerubbabel!-Yahweh declares. Courage, Joshua son of Jehozadak high priest! Courage, all you people of the country!-Yahweh declares. To work! I am with you -- Yahweh Sabaoth declares-

5 and my spirit is present among you. Do not be afraid!

6 For Yahweh Sabaoth says this: A little while now, and I shall shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.

7 I shall shake all the nations, and the treasures of all the nations will flow in, and I shall fill this Temple with glory, says Yahweh Sabaoth.

8 Mine is the silver, mine the gold!-Yahweh Sabaoth declares.

9 The glory of this new Temple will surpass that of the old, says Yahweh Sabaoth, and in this place I shall give peace -- Yahweh Sabaoth declares." '

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 43:1, 2, 3, 4

1 Judge me, God, defend my cause against a people who have no faithful love; from those who are treacherous and unjust, rescue me.

2 For you are the God of my strength; why abandon me? Why must I go around in mourning, harrassed by the enemy?

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3 Send out your light and your truth; they shall be my guide, to lead me to your holy mountain to the place where you dwell.

4 Then I shall go to the altar of God, to the God of my joy. I will rejoice and praise you on the harp, O God, my God.

Gospel, Luke 9:18-22

18 Now it happened that he was praying alone, and his disciples came to him and he put this question to them, 'Who do the crowds say I am?'

19 And they answered, 'Some say John the Baptist; others Elijah; others again one of the ancient prophets come back to life.'

20 'But you,' he said to them, 'who do you say I am?' It was Peter who spoke up. 'The Christ of God,' he said.

21 But he gave them strict orders and charged them not to say this to anyone.

22 He said, 'The Son of man is destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes and to be put to death, and to be raised up on the third day.'



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Questions for Reflection for September 26, 2025

1. In our first reading, the people of Jerusalem are worried that their second temple isn't as grand as the first, built by Solomon.

The First Temple of Jerusalem was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar when his troops sacked the city and carried off the Ark of the Covenant. Now, almost seven decades later, the workers are concerned their structure is less prestigious. So, the people must be reminded that what makes the temple great is the presence of Yahweh!

This is true of all we do. When our humble efforts are dedicated to God, they become filled with greatness. God does not require that we build great monuments. Instead, we should do our best work, whatever we do, as the Apostle Paul reminds us, "Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men," (Coll. 3:23). We provide the labor, we put heart into the work, the Lord provides the rest.

2. Our responsorial Psalm today invites God to examine us. It cries to Him for help to us in our moment of need. It is a song of surrender to the Lord from a man, David, who learned how to surrender through the myriad of struggles he experienced in his life.

God never forsakes us, rather it is we who sometimes forget who God is, and the role He should have in our lives. Let us remember that God is our creator, our eternal father, and our salvation. He is our king, both on Earth and in Heaven.

3. In today's Gospel, Jesus asks the question, "Who do you say I am?" He asks them to answer the most important question faced by men and women, of every age - Who is Jesus Christ to me? After reporting as to who the crowds said He was, Jesus turns to the ones who had walked with Him. He wants to hear their response. It is Simon who responds with living faith.

The same question is asked of each one of us TODAY. RIGHT NOW. - WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM? It is not just asked once - but continually. It is meant to inform the response of our entire life. How we answer that question determines who we will become and how we will live. It is a question which cannot be answered indirectly, or halfheartedly. It is not enough to rely on what - some say. The question is profoundly personal as well as public. Who is Jesus Christ to ME? And how does my answer affect the way I live.

It is a question we must answer FRESH every day. Yesterday's yes is not enough for today. If we say Jesus is our Lord, then do we live like He really is Our Lord? Do we keep and obey His commandments? Do we seek to know Him and abide by His will? Do we attend the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass frequently? Do we pray...really pray? Do we share His words with others?



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How we respond to this question is known by the Lord. We cannot deceive Him. If He is truly our Lord, then we must ensure our words and our deeds are consistent with this belief.



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 27, 2025



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Daily Reading for Saturday, September 27th, 2025

Reading 1, Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15

5 Then, raising my eyes, I had a vision. There was a man with a measuring line in his hand.

6 I asked him, 'Where are you going?' He said, 'To measure Jerusalem, to calculate her width and length.'

7 And then, while the angel who was talking to me walked away, another angel came out to meet him.

8 He said to him, 'Run, and tell that young man this, "Jerusalem is to remain unwalled, because of the great number of men and cattle inside.

9 For I -- Yahweh declares -- shall be a wall of fire all round her and I shall be the Glory within her." '

14 Sing, rejoice, daughter of Zion, for now I am coming to live among you -Yahweh declares!

15 And on that day many nations will be converted to Yahweh. Yes, they will become his people, and they will live among you. Then you will know that Yahweh Sabaoth has sent me to you!

Responsorial Psalm, Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12, 13

10 Listen, nations, to the word of Yahweh. On the farthest coasts and islands proclaim it, say, 'He who scattered Israel is gathering him, will guard him as a shepherd guarding his flock.'

11 For Yahweh has ransomed Jacob, rescued him from a hand stronger than his own.

12 They will come, shouting for joy on the heights of Zion, thronging towards Yahweh's lavish gifts, for wheat, new wine and oil, sheep and cattle; they will be like a well-watered garden, they will sorrow no more.

13 The young girl will then take pleasure in the dance, and young men and old alike; I shall change their mourning into gladness, comfort them, give them joy after their troubles;

Gospel, Luke 9:43-45

43 and everyone was awestruck by the greatness of God. But while everyone was full of admiration for all he did, he said to his disciples,

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44 'For your part, you must have these words constantly in mind: The Son of man is going to be delivered into the power of men.'

45 But they did not understand what he said; it was hidden from them so that they should not see the meaning of it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.



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Questions for Reflection for September 27, 2025

1. Our first reading from the Book of Zechariah is a vision given to this prophet by the Lord. Zechariah is a prophet who ministered to the Jewish people after their return from exile. His prophesies are very messianic. This is a vision of a surveyor who affirms that Jerusalem will be a city without walls due to the number of people who would occupy it. But it would have a wall of fire because of the powerful presence of the Lord within it. The Lord Himself will defend the city with a wall of fire.

But why should the city be unwalled in an age of many threats? The man with the measuring line, the angel is speaking prophetically. It is understood that in the future, there will be too many believers in God to fit into a single city. Indeed, this is the case today. We are all a part of the New Jerusalem, the Church of Jesus Christ, a city without walls, filled with the very fire of the Holy Spirit.

2. In our Responsorial Psalm, words taken from the Prophet Jeremiah, we have a vision of what is called the New Covenant. It is the promise that God will gather His people into one place and keep them, like a good shepherd. And we shall live without sorrow. This is the Gospel message. In the last days, we shall all be gathered together in triumph over sin and death, into a single flock. God will provide for all our needs, and we shall never again experience sorrow.
3. While we are awestruck at what God has prepared for us, we must also remember the price which has been paid. Jesus Himself told the disciples that He would be delivered into the power of men, but they did not understand. Today, we know what happened.

The saving torture and saving death of Jesus Christ was exceptionally terrible. It is made worse by the fact that He was without sin, and the punishment He suffered was for our sins. He willingly offered Himself to free us from sin and defeat death.

It is right for us to rejoice at the news of our salvation, but we must always remember, and respect, the price that has been paid.

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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 28, 2025



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Daily Reading for Sunday, September 28th, 2025

Reading 1, Amos 6:1, 4-7

1 Disaster for those so comfortable in Zion and for those so confident on the hill of Samaria, the notables of this first of nations, those to whom the House of Israel has recourse!

4 Lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their divans, they dine on lambs from the flock, and stall-fattened veal;

5 they bawl to the sound of the lyre and, like David, they invent musical instruments;

6 they drink wine by the bowlful, and lard themselves with the finest oils, but for the ruin of Joseph they care nothing.

7 That is why they will now go into captivity, heading the column of captives. The sprawlers' revelry is over.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 146:7, 8-9, 9-10

7 gives justice to the oppressed, gives food to the hungry; Yahweh sets prisoners free.

8 Yahweh gives sight to the blind, lifts up those who are bowed down.

9 Yahweh protects the stranger, he sustains the orphan and the widow. Yahweh loves the upright, but he frustrates the wicked.

10 Yahweh reigns for ever, your God, Zion, from age to age.

Reading 2, First Timothy 6:11-16

11 But, as someone dedicated to God, avoid all that. You must aim to be upright and religious, filled with faith and love, perseverance and gentleness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith and win the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made your noble profession of faith before many witnesses.

13 Now, before God, the source of all life, and before Jesus Christ, who witnessed to his noble profession of faith before Pontius Pilate, I charge you

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14 to do all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

15 who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords,

16 who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no human being has seen or is able to see: to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen.

Gospel, Luke 16:19-31

19 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day.

20 And at his gate there used to lie a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores,

21 who longed to fill himself with what fell from the rich man's table. Even dogs came and licked his sores.

22 Now it happened that the poor man died and was carried away by the angels into Abraham's embrace. The rich man also died and was buried.

23 'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his embrace.

24 So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames."

25 Abraham said, "My son, remember that during your life you had your fill of good things, just as Lazarus his fill of bad. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony.

26 But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to prevent those who want to cross from our side to yours or from your side to ours."

27 'So he said, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house,

28 since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too."

29 Abraham said, "They have Moses and the prophets, let them listen to them."

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30 The rich man replied, "Ah no, father Abraham, but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent."

31 Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."



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Questions for Reflection for September 28, 2025

1. Our first reading comes with a stark warning for those who do no spiritual work, because they assume their salvation is secure. The prophet warns, they will be the first in captivity.

Some people erroneously believe that once they are baptized or confirmed, they are finished with their work of being Christian. How many times have we witnessed someone declare they are saved, as they skip Mass or shy away from the perceived inconvenience of their spiritual duties?

Our spiritual work on Earth is never done. There is always a need for the Gospel to be lived and shared, both in word and in deed. That means we must continually respond to the grace given to us. Conversion is an ongoing process. That is why it is essential that we develop a way of living which includes consistent prayer, scripture reading and study, participation in Holy Mass, availing ourselves of the Sacraments. We must also live a unity of life, living in a way which is in accord to our profession of faith. Just as evil takes no days off, neither can we take time off from the labor of being a Christian.

2. Our responsorial psalm reminds us that God gives justice to the oppressed and frustrates the wicked. God protects the upright and vulnerable. Let us be upright in all our dealing, so in our time of vulnerability, God will also sustain and protect us.
3. In our Gospel we encounter a rich man who embraces a disordered relationship with the goods of this earth. Instead of receiving those goods as a gift and offering them back to the Lord by using them to serve others - his disordered appetites entrap and blind him. His sin is that he failed to see the need of his brother.

Notice, the Lord said nothing about the rich man's possessions. It was his wrongful use of them which he addressed. The Rich Man failed to recognize the need of others. He did not see Lazarus at the doorstep.

St Augustine proclaimed in a homily on this Gospel passage: "Lazarus was received into heaven because of his humility and not because of his poverty. Wealth itself was not what kept the rich man from eternal bliss. His punishment was for selfishness and disloyalty."

Having goods is not sin. It is whether they have us which this parable is concerned with. In this parable, goods have the man. Do the goods of this earth have us? Do we recognize Lazarus at our own doors?

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We live in an age of bumper stickers. I was driving to DC once and saw one, "Whoever dies with the most toys wins" and another, "I am spending my retirement spending my children's inheritance", Christians are called to a different approach to the goods of the earth.

We are ALL invited to embrace simplicity of life.

Simplicity is not about the quantity of the goods of the earth we possess. It is about our relationship to them. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:21). How often have we heard the saying, "Money is the root of all evil"? That is not what the Apostle Paul taught.

Money is not evil. Nor is it proof of God's blessing and favor-a view that insults Christians who struggle daily to survive. Both errors are rooted in a mistaken foundation. They are self-centered rather than God and other centered.



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

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Daily Reading for Monday, September 29th, 2025

Reading 1, Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

9 While I was watching, thrones were set in place and one most venerable took his seat. His robe was white as snow, the hair of his head as pure as wool. His throne was a blaze of flames, its wheels were a burning fire.

10 A stream of fire poured out, issuing from his presence. A thousand thousand waited on him, ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was in session and the books lay open.

13 I was gazing into the visions of the night, when I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, as it were a son of man. He came to the One most venerable and was led into his presence.

14 On him was conferred rule, honour and kingship, and all peoples, nations and languages became his servants. His rule is an everlasting rule which will never pass away, and his kingship will never come to an end.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5

1 [Of David] I thank you, Yahweh, with all my heart, for you have listened to the cry I uttered. In the presence of angels I sing to you,

2 I bow down before your holy Temple. I praise your name for your faithful love and your constancy; your promises surpass even your fame.

3 You heard me on the day when I called, and you gave new strength to my heart.

4 All the kings of the earth give thanks to you, Yahweh, when they hear the promises you make;

5 they sing of Yahweh's ways, 'Great is the glory of Yahweh!'

Gospel, John 1:47-51

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael coming he said of him, 'There, truly, is an Israelite in whom there is no deception.'

48 Nathanael asked, 'How do you know me?' Jesus replied, 'Before Philip came to call you, I saw you under the fig tree.'

49 Nathanael answered, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God, you are the king of Israel.'

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50 Jesus replied, 'You believe that just because I said: I saw you under the fig tree. You are going to see greater things than that.'

51 And then he added, 'In all truth I tell you, you will see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending over the Son of man.'



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Questions for Reflection for September 29, 2025

1. Daniel's vision of the coming Messiah is an example of apocalyptic literature, present in both the Hebrew Scriptures and in the New Testament Book of Revelation. As Christians, followers of Jesus the Christ, we know the One seated on the Throne is Jesus. Do we allow Him to reign over every aspect of our day? His Reign advances when we do.
2. The Psalm is the prayer of worship, with the Psalmist bowing down before the Glory of God. We are called to worship God at all times and, most especially when we participate in Holy Mass. Do we live our lives, bowing down before the Glory of God? Do we experience worship as a source of joy and refreshment?
3. Phillip invites Nathanael to come and see Jesus. In that encounter, Jesus opens his spiritual eyes to see the mysteries of the Kingdom which Jesus reveals. Jesus is the Son of Man, promised in the Hebrew Scriptures. Nathanael is changed. Tradition tells us he preached the Gospel in the East and died a Martyrs death. In our encounters with Jesus, are we being changed? Are we responding to our own call from Him?



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Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

September 30, 2025



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Daily Reading for Tuesday, September 30th, 2025

Reading 1, Zechariah 8:20-23

20 'Yahweh Sabaoth says this, "In the future, peoples and citizens of many cities will come;

21 and citizens of one city will go to the next and say: We must certainly go to entreat Yahweh's favour and seek out Yahweh Sabaoth; I am going myself.

22 Yes, many peoples and great nations will seek out Yahweh Sabaoth in Jerusalem and entreat Yahweh's favour."

23 'Yahweh Sabaoth says this, "In those days, ten men from nations of every language will take a Jew by the sleeve and say: We want to go with you, since we have learnt that God is with you." '

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 87:1-3, 4-5, 6-7

1 [Of the sons of Korah Psalm Song] With its foundations on the holy mountains,

2 Yahweh loves his city, he prefers the gates of Zion to any dwelling-place in Jacob.

3 He speaks of glory for you, city of God,

4 'I number Rahab and Babylon among those that acknowledge me; look at Tyre, Philistia, Ethiopia, so and so was born there.'

5 But of Zion it will be said, 'Every one was born there,' her guarantee is the Most High.

6 Yahweh in his register of peoples will note against each, 'Born there',

7 princes no less than native-born; all make their home in you.

Gospel, Luke 9:51-56

51 Now it happened that as the time drew near for him to be taken up, he resolutely turned his face towards Jerusalem

52 and sent messengers ahead of him. These set out, and they went into a Samaritan village to make preparations for him,

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53 but the people would not receive him because he was making for Jerusalem.

54 Seeing this, the disciples James and John said, 'Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to burn them up?'

55 But he turned and rebuked them,

56 and they went on to another village.



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Questions for Reflection for September 30, 2025

1. Through dreams and visions, the Lord speaks through the Prophet Zechariah to give His people, Israel, hope in the future. The Lord also reminds them of why they were called. In this particular prophecy, the Lord reminds His people that they were called to bring all the Nations back to Him by revealing His love and salvation. The Lord says the people of the Gentile Nations will grab a Jewish person by the hand and say, "We want to go with you, since we have learned that God is with you". What a beautiful promise.

For we who are Christians, followers of Jesus, who have been grafted onto the vine of Abraham by faith, the promise also embraces us. Jesus is "Emmanuel", a word which means "God is with us". He is the One who was promised. In Jesus Christ, the way back to the Father has been opened to all men and women. This is why we refer to His Church as "catholic", the word means Universal. Our first reading predicts that all many people will seek God. Today, we see this prophecy has come true.

The lesson for us is that we must be the kind of person who will take another "by the sleeve," which means to not let go, and lead them to the Lord.

How do we become the kind of person others will follow to find the Lord? By living a dynamically Catholic Christian life. That is how we will draw others to Jesus Christ. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life - for all men and women. People will ask us why we are different, and then they will listen when we share the Gospel.

2. Our responsorial psalm is a reminder that we are all numbered among God's people. Every believer is a citizen of Zion. Through Baptism and the Sacraments of initiation, we have become members of the Body of Christ, the seed of the Kingdom to come. Let us celebrate this through prayer, praise and thanksgiving each day!
3. In our Gospel passage, immediately following his Transfiguration of Jesus and a series of miracles revealing who He is and how, through Him, the Kingdom of God is breaking through, Jesus "sets His face like flint" in His journey to Jerusalem. He came to die - so that we might live. Jesus is preparing to go to Jerusalem, where He knew what awaited Him. Although He was a man, like us in all things but sin the letter to the Hebrews tells us, he was also God Incarnate. He was steadfast in His Saving mission, and he demonstrated true courage.

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Remarkably, when the people of a nearby Samaritan village refused to accept Him, precisely because he was headed toward Jerusalem (Samaritans and Jews were at odds with one another) - and James and John suggested the city be destroyed - Jesus rebuked them, setting the matter straight that His purpose was to save ALL people. Not just the Jewish people. They were chosen as a vehicle for all the Nations to find the Lord.

Jesus reacted with love to the Samaritans, not anger. He demonstrated mercy. Revenge is not for Christians. We do not triumph by bringing others low. All we do is bring ourselves down and fail to help the one who the Lord loves. They will be lifted up by encountering the Lord who was lifted up on a cross to draw all men and women to Himself.

Instead, we should seek to lift others up, even those who are seemingly our enemies, because greatness comes from accepting our own cross, pointing those whom we encounter to the cross of Jesus Christ and remaining steadfast to our Christian duty as disciples of the Lord.



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