

# Catholic Online School

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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 2025



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 1, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Saturday, November 1st, 2025

### Reading 1, Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

2 Then I saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea,

3 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.'

4 And I heard how many had been sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

9 After that I saw that there was a huge number, impossible for anyone to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted in a loud voice,

10 'Salvation to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

11 And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four living creatures, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God

12 with these words: Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13 One of the elders then spoke and asked me, 'Who are these people, dressed in white robes, and where have they come from?'

14 I answered him, 'You can tell me, sir.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great trial; they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

1 [Psalm Of David] To Yahweh belong the earth and all it contains, the world and all who live there;

2 it is he who laid its foundations on the seas, on the flowing waters fixed it firm.

3 Who shall go up to the mountain of Yahweh? Who shall take a stand in his holy place?

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4 The clean of hands and pure of heart, whose heart is not set on vanities, who does not swear an oath in order to deceive.

5 Such a one will receive blessing from Yahweh, saving justice from the God of his salvation.

6 Such is the people that seeks him, that seeks your presence, God of Jacob.

## Reading 2, First John 3:1-3

1 You must see what great love the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called God's children -- which is what we are! The reason why the world does not acknowledge us is that it did not acknowledge him.

2 My dear friends, we are already God's children, but what we shall be in the future has not yet been revealed. We are well aware that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he really is.

3 Whoever treasures this hope of him purifies himself, to be as pure as he is.

## Gospel, Matthew 5:1-12

1 Seeing the crowds, he went onto the mountain. And when he was seated his disciples came to him.

2 Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

3 How blessed are the poor in spirit: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

4 Blessed are the gentle: they shall have the earth as inheritance.

5 Blessed are those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for uprightness: they shall have their fill.

7 Blessed are the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be recognised as children of God.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of uprightness: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

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11 'Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you falsely on my account.

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven; this is how they persecuted the prophets before you.



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## Questions for Reflection for November 1, 2025

1. Today is All Saints' Day, and our first reading is from the Book of Revelation, the last Book of the Bible. The wonderful, mystical experience given to the Apostle John, when he was imprisoned on the Island of Patmos, as an old man. We have presented to us a scene of what is to come; a multitude of people from every race and nation, standing before God. Their robes are washed white, in the blood of the Lamb. They are redeemed, freed from the penalty of sin by the Blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. This beautiful scene is God's promise to you. If you will wash your robes white in the blood of the Lamb, you will have a place before God, and in the communion of all the Saints, in the life that is to come. That life begins even now, when we live our lives for, with and in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are all called to be "saints", the word means "holy ones".

In this powerful scene from the Book of Revelation, notice what all the Saints are doing. They are worshipping the Lord! We are called to enter into that worship, in a special way, at every Holy Mass. It is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. We are actually present on Calvary and in the Feast which we hear of proclaimed in our first reading. The Holy Mass is meant to be a mystical experience for those who draw closer and closer to the Lord. Our capacity to worship is also intended to grow as our relationship with Jesus Christ grows. So, when the time comes and we are called to pass from this life to the next, we will not experience a kind of "culture shock". Heaven will already have entered us and prepared us to enter it.

2. Our responsorial psalm asks, "Who shall go up the mountain of Yahweh?" This means, who shall be worthy to stand in the presence of the Lord? The answer is all of us who are clean of hand and pure of heart. In other words, those who us who accept salvation through Jesus Christ, and who live according to the Commandments of God and continue to grow in holiness by cooperating with grace.
3. Our second reading tells us we are God's children even now. What will become we can only begin to perceive as we grow in our knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Beloved disciple John tells us "We shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is". How do we move forward in this journey toward the Lord? Again, the Beloved disciple tells us, to cherish this hope of heaven and "purify ourselves". To become pure, or holy, as He is.

Jesus goes up on the Mountain, and in this sermon, He speaks of the saints. Those with a capital S, the ones in heaven, and those with a small s, you and me, called to the path of holiness which leads, through Him, to eternity. We are to live differently. To become more and more like Him. AS we do that, by cooperating with the grace He gives to us, we will be "Blessed". The word translated Beatitude can also be translated Happy in the Beatitudes (Matt. 5)



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The New Testament and the writings of the early Church fathers emphasize the vocation to beatitude or happiness. The path to happiness passes through the Cross and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. He has done for us what we could never do for ourselves. Through the Holy Spirit we are being set free from what St Paul calls the law of sin and death. (Rom. 8:2)

We are not only set free FROM SIN, we are set FREE FOR - a new way of life as a Christian, a follower of the Christ. One who makes the Risen Jesus Christ present in the stuff of daily life. The process of conversion in the life of a follower of Jesus involves the exercise of human freedom through the capacity of human choice. What we choose not only changes the world around us, it changes us. This is the heart of Catholic Moral Theology.

As we choose the Lord, as we grow in the life of the Holy Spirit, we begin to experience real happiness. The kind that does not disappear in struggle or become extinguished by difficulty. His Image is restored in us and we begin to grow into His Likeness.

Such a robust moral vision calls us to growth in virtue. The theological virtues of faith, hope and charity are infused in us through Baptism. The hinge or cardinal virtues are, in a proper sense, acquired through a lifestyle of living faith and participation in the sacramental life of the Church. This vision of a dynamic Christian life involves the development of what were called habitus in Latin, from which we derive the word habit. Let's call them habits of holiness. They are habits of happiness as well. Because holiness is true happiness. These habits are powers to act with excellence which are formed within the Christian believer through our cooperation with grace.

The Holy Spirit bestows upon us the spiritual gifts and empowers us to a lifestyle of conversion where we can cultivate the fruits of the Spirit, The Apostle Paul mentioned these fruits in the 5th chapter of the same letter to the Galatians from which is taken our second reading. "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Gal. 5:22)

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. It was lived and demonstrated in His Sacred humanity, which is a model for all human beings. (Gaudium et Spes, Joy and Hope, #22) It is meant to be replicated in the life of each man and woman who is baptized into His Church and learns to clothe themselves in virtue and live in beatitude, beginning now.

St JoseMaria Escriva once wrote these insightful words:

"I am every day more convinced that happiness in Heaven is for those who know how to be happy on earth."

The Forge, 1005

Happy Feast of All Saints.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 2, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Sunday, November 2nd, 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 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6

- 1 [Psalm Of David] Yahweh is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
- 2 In grassy meadows he lets me lie. By tranquil streams he leads me
- 3 to restore my spirit. He guides me in paths of saving justice as befits his name.
- 4 Even were I to walk in a ravine as dark as death I should fear no danger, for you are at my side. Your staff and your crook are there to soothe me.
- 5 You prepare a table for me under the eyes of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup brims over.

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6 Kindness and faithful love pursue me every day of my life. I make my home in the house of Yahweh for all time to come.

## Reading 2, Romans 6:3-9

3 You cannot have forgotten that all of us, when we were baptised into Christ Jesus, were baptised into his death.

4 So by our baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glorious power, we too should begin living a new life.

5 If we have been joined to him by dying a death like his, so we shall be by a resurrection like his;

6 realising that our former self was crucified with him, so that the self which belonged to sin should be destroyed and we should be freed from the slavery of sin.

7 Someone who has died, of course, no longer has to answer for sin.

8 But we believe that, if we died with Christ, then we shall live with him too.

9 We know that Christ has been raised from the dead and will never die again. Death has no power over him any more.

## Gospel, John 6:37-40

37 Everyone whom the Father gives me will come to me; I will certainly not reject anyone who comes to me,

38 because I have come from heaven, not to do my own will, but to do the will of him who sent me.

39 Now the will of him who sent me is that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, but that I should raise it up on the last day.

40 It is my Father's will that whoever sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and that I should raise that person up on the last day.

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## Questions for Reflection for November 2, 2025

1. The first reading for today's Holy Mass is taken from the Book of Wisdom. It is found in Jewish Wisdom literature. As a Deacon, I know it is often the favorite passage chosen by the faithful for reading at the Funeral Mass of loved ones. It underscores the teaching, throughout both the Old and the New Testament, that the souls of the just are in the hands of the Lord.

And the Psalm, Psalm 23, is also the most often selected Psalm for funeral Masses. David reminds us that the Lord is the Good Shepherd, and he walks with us, even to the valley of death. For the believer, death is not an end. In fact, the early Christians saw it as a "change of habitation". How do we view death?

2. In our Second reading, from the letter of the Apostle Paul to the Christians in Rome, we are reminded "when we were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into his death. So, by our baptism into his death, we were buried with him, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glorious power, we too should begin living a new life.

If we have been joined to him by dying a death like his, so we shall be by a resurrection like his; realizing that our former self was crucified with him, so that the self which belonged to sin should be destroyed and we should be freed from the slavery of sin."

We will be raised from the dead, bodily! Do we believe this?

3. And the Gospel, appointed for this day, All Souls' Day, gives us the very words of Jesus Christ "...the will of him who sent me is that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, but that I should raise it up on the last day. It is my Father's will that whoever sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and that I should raise that person up on the last day."



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection November 3, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Monday, November 3rd, 2025

### Reading 1, Romans 11:29-36

29 There is no change of mind on God's part about the gifts he has made or of his choice.

30 Just as you were in the past disobedient to God but now you have been shown mercy, through their disobedience;

31 so in the same way they are disobedient now, so that through the mercy shown to you they too will receive mercy.

32 God has imprisoned all human beings in their own disobedience only to show mercy to them all.

33 How rich and deep are the wisdom and the knowledge of God! We cannot reach to the root of his decisions or his ways.

34 Who has ever known the mind of the Lord? Who has ever been his adviser?

35 Who has given anything to him, so that his presents come only as a debt returned?

36 Everything there is comes from him and is caused by him and exists for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 69:30-31, 33-34, 36-37

30 I will praise God's name in song, I will extol him by thanksgiving,

31 for this will please Yahweh more than an ox, than a bullock horned and hoofed.

33 For God listens to the poor, he has never scorned his captive people.

34 Let heaven and earth and seas, and all that stirs in them, acclaim him!

36 the descendants of his servants will inherit it, and those who love his name will dwell there.

### Gospel, Luke 14:12-14

12 Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relations or rich neighbours, in case they invite you back and so repay you.

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13 No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind;

14 then you will be blessed, for they have no means to repay you and so you will be repaid when the upright rise again.'



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## Questions for Reflection for November 3, 2025

1. Today's first reading from the Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Romans speaks of God's mercy and generosity. God does not revoke His mercy. No matter how disobedient we may be, God does not cut us off from salvation. Only we can cut ourselves off. In the context of the entire 11th chapter of his letter to the Romans, Paul is talking about his fellow Jews. It is them to whom he is saying "There is no change of mind on God's part about the gifts he has made or of his choice." IN a better translation the verse is "the gifts and the call are irrevocable". The covenant made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is not revoked. God desires all of His people to experience His Mercy, given to us through Jesus Christ.

Understand, that no matter what we have done in the past, the path to salvation remains available to us. This may not make sense to us, for we cannot comprehend such mercy. No matter who long, how egregious, the error of our ways, salvation remains available to us. We are called to repent of sin, turn away from it, and turn toward the Lord. So I encourage you, and anyone you know, if you feel your sins are too great to forgive, think again. Seek God in prayer and contemplation, and obtain the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Sacrament of new beginnings. For in Christ, we are made new, and the old is washed away.

2. Our responsorial psalm invites us to praise God and give Him thanks, for he cares for the poor and His captive people. This is a reminder that God loves us, no matter our state in life. The Psalms are songs. This is why we chant them in the Liturgy. Singing worship to the Lord draws us into a special place before the Lord. In its beautiful teaching on the Liturgy, the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council wrote "Liturgical worship is given a more noble form when the divine offices are celebrated solemnly in song, with the assistance of sacred ministers and the active participation of the people."

No matter whether we think we have a good voice. It doesn't matter. Sing your praise to the Lord. It honors Him and brings you into His presence.

3. In today's passage from the Gospel of St. Luke, we are told that when we host a gathering, we should not invite our family and friends, but those in need of friends, the poor, the lame, and the blind. Jesus is speaking of a posture of life. Putting others first. Remember, all we have belongs to God. Our wealth, our possessions, our talents, they all belong to Him. They are given to us, so we may act as stewards, and use these things in God's service. As God's hands and feet in the world, we are invited to use our gifts for those in need.

Let us look not for opportunities to be repaid, but instead for opportunities to invest in the wellbeing of others, and therefore, our salvation. True humility is rare in this age of narcissism and self-idolatry. When we encounter it in a leader, it moves us deeply.

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That is partly because we are used to experiencing its opposite in some who hold worldly power. But it is also because authentic humility reveals the God who emptied Himself for you and me. Jesus freely took the lowest place.

St Paul writes concerning Jesus 'Though He was in the form of God, He did not count equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, He emptied Himself' (Philippians 2) He reminded the Christians in Corinth 'you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.' (2 Cor. 8:9)

The English word humility is derived from a Latin root which means close to the earth. It is a relational word and calls for action. It means willingly giving up your place, emptying yourself, for another. In the Gospel, Jesus offers a parable to demonstrate what humility acts like. And, He calls us to live this teaching in our daily lives.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 4, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Tuesday, November 4th, 2025

### Reading 1, Romans 12:5-16

5 In the same way, all of us, though there are so many of us, make up one body in Christ, and as different parts we are all joined to one another.

6 Then since the gifts that we have differ according to the grace that was given to each of us: if it is a gift of prophecy, we should prophesy as much as our faith tells us;

7 if it is a gift of practical service, let us devote ourselves to serving; if it is teaching, to teaching;

8 if it is encouraging, to encouraging. When you give, you should give generously from the heart; if you are put in charge, you must be conscientious; if you do works of mercy, let it be because you enjoy doing them.

9 Let love be without any pretence. Avoid what is evil; stick to what is good.

10 In brotherly love let your feelings of deep affection for one another come to expression and regard others as more important than yourself.

11 In the service of the Lord, work not halfheartedly but with conscientiousness and an eager spirit.

12 Be joyful in hope, persevere in hardship; keep praying regularly;

13 share with any of God's holy people who are in need; look for opportunities to be hospitable.

14 Bless your persecutors; never curse them, bless them.

15 Rejoice with others when they rejoice, and be sad with those in sorrow.

16 Give the same consideration to all others alike. Pay no regard to social standing, but meet humble people on their own terms. Do not congratulate yourself on your own wisdom.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 131:1, 2, 3

1 [Song of Ascents] Yahweh, my heart is not haughty, I do not set my sights too high. I have taken no part in great affairs, in wonders beyond my scope.

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2 No, I hold myself in quiet and silence, like a little child in its mother's arms, like a little child, so I keep myself.

3 Let Israel hope in Yahweh henceforth and for ever.

## **Gospel, Luke 14:15-24**

15 On hearing this, one of those gathered round the table said to him, 'Blessed is anyone who will share the meal in the kingdom of God!'

16 But he said to him, 'There was a man who gave a great banquet, and he invited a large number of people.

17 When the time for the banquet came, he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, "Come along: everything is ready now."

18 But all alike started to make excuses. The first said, "I have bought a piece of land and must go and see it. Please accept my apologies."

19 Another said, "I have bought five yoke of oxen and am on my way to try them out. Please accept my apologies."

20 Yet another said, "I have just got married and so am unable to come."

21 'The servant returned and reported this to his master. Then the householder, in a rage, said to his servant, "Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in here the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame."

22 "Sir," said the servant, "your orders have been carried out and there is still room."

23 Then the master said to his servant, "Go to the open roads and the hedgerows and press people to come in, to make sure my house is full;

24 because, I tell you, not one of those who were invited shall have a taste of my banquet." '

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## Questions for Reflection for November 4, 2025

1. Our first reading, from the letter of Paul to the Romans, explains to the believers one of the most important truths of the Christian faith. He explains it even more fully in his letter to the Corinthians. It is true for us! When we were baptized, we entered into the Body of Christ, the Church. We were incorporated into Christ. Together, we are the Body of Christ. Jesus is the Head. He continues His mission through us. He lives his life through us. This is more than a metaphor, it is truth. We are members of the Mystical Body of Christ, together. The Catechism quotes Jesus, saying: "Abide in me, and I in you... I am the vine, you are the branches." And he proclaimed a mysterious and real communion between his own body and ours: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him." That's the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 787.

In fact, Jesus teaches this essential truth throughout His ministry. We are joined to Him. We live our lives in Him. The Fathers of the Church wrote regularly about the "whole Christ". The Head and the body cannot be separated. One of the many implications of being the Body of Christ, is that it gives us our mission and our calling. It also means, in a very real sense, that we are Christ's hands and feet in the world. God will empower us, provide and sustain us through grace, but we are to do the day-to-day work. We do this through a myriad of deeds, from our own prayer and devotion to the care and love we show to one another, especially those most in need.

When we live according to the Lord's will, it becomes evident to others, and they will be drawn toward us, and toward the Lord. Let us love one another as Christ loves us, for we are His hands in the world.

2. Our responsorial psalm is a tribute to humility, and that our hope should not be in grand schemes, but in Yahweh. We are to be like little children in our mothers' arms. Let us look where we have placed our hope? Have we placed it in some plan which we have for our own lives? If so, it will bring only the transient things of this world? Or have we placed it in the Lord who grants eternal life?
3. In our Gospel passage appointed for today's Holy Mass, Jesus shares a parable with us to help us understand something about the kingdom of God. We hear about a man who threw a great banquet and invited a large number of people. But they all made excuses and failed to respond to this wonderful invitation. The first one put viewing a piece of land he had purchased before responding. The next wants to view some animals, oxen, which he had just purchased. The final one notes that he has just gotten married. But, even that excuse, a better one than the first two, is no excuse at all. In fact, it is an offense to the host. None of them came.

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So, the man invited everyone else, and finding there was still yet room, he invited even those living in the hedges and passing by.

God's kingdom is open to all people, He sent His Son for all of us. Jesus says "Come to me" - but many ignore the invitation. Our response is absolutely essential. We have been created in the Image of God. At the heart of that is our human freedom. The Catholic Catechism tells us our freedom is modeled after God's freedom. 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."

The Christian vocation is an ongoing call to respond to the Lord's invitations. He invites us into an ongoing relationship with Him. He calls us to grow in holiness. He calls us to worship Him. When we do not pray. When we fail to attend and participate at Holy Mass. When we fail to choose what is true, noble and good, we are spurning His invitation. But this does not mean the kingdom will be empty without us. There is plenty of room for the many more who choose to attend. Your invitation to the great Eucharistic banquet has been issued. How will you respond? Yesterday's response is not enough.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 5, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Wednesday, November 5th, 2025

### Reading 1, Romans 13:8-10

8 The only thing you should owe to anyone is love for one another, for to love the other person is to fulfil the law.

9 All these: You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and all the other commandments that there are, are summed up in this single phrase: You must love your neighbour as yourself.

10 Love can cause no harm to your neighbour, and so love is the fulfilment of the Law.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 112:1-2, 4-5, 9

1 Alleluia! How blessed is anyone who fears Yahweh, who delights in his commandments!

2 His descendants shall be powerful on earth, the race of the honest shall receive blessings:

4 For the honest he shines as a lamp in the dark, generous, tender-hearted, and upright.

5 All goes well for one who lends generously, who is honest in all his dealing;

9 To the needy he gives without stint, his uprightness stands firm for ever; his reputation is founded on strength.

### 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 November 5, 2025

1. In our first reading, the Apostle Paul speaks about the call to love, and how love is the fulfillment of the law. It "perfects" or completes the Law.

As Christians, we affirm that there is no conflict between love and law. The Lord, out of Love for His people, gave the Law, through Moses the Law giver, to help His chosen people overcome the effects of the Fall and find their way back to Him. Also, to demonstrate to the Nations, through the witness of Israel, that He is the Lord of all the Nations.

Consider how we raise our children. We provide them with rules, and sometimes consequences because we love them, and we do not want them to become lost. Likewise, when we value something, we take special care to ensure that it is safe. And so it is with us. God loves and cherishes each of us, so He gave us His law to keep us safe, and to lead us back to Him. But, as the Apostle Paul explained as well, we could not live up to the Law on our own power. So, He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus, who fulfilled the Law, and paid penalty for the transgressions, the failure, to abide by the Law.

2. Our responsorial psalm teaches that those who delight in God's commandments are blessed. The word blessed can also be translated as happy. Just as a child is blessed when raised by good parents, so too are we blessed when we follow the guidelines set by our Heavenly Father. And, when we model our own way of life on the Lord's Law, we draw other men and women to Him. To the source of all happiness.
3. In our Gospel for today, Jesus explains the cost of becoming His disciple. These words were not only for those who wished to follow Him at the time, they are for us as well. We are disciples of Jesus Christ in this contemporary age. We have a lot of work to do in fulfilling our call to bring the world back to Him. And that is the mission entrusted to every Christian.

We have a tower to build. A work entrusted to us. We must calculate the cost. We are engaged in a spiritual war for the souls of men and women. And that battle seems to grow more intense by the day. But we are not alone. Jesus is the Architect, the Captain, the Lord. With His grace, we can build the tower. Under His leadership, we have entered the field of battle. And we will succeed, first, in prayer and spiritual warfare against the forces of hell. But also, in our daily lives. Our work. Our deeds.

We are called to transform the current culture of death into a culture of life. We must be faithful citizens, run for office, and never give up our struggles in the courtroom, the classroom, or the marketplace of commerce, all for the true common good.

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We must defend life, marriage, family, freedom, religious freedom, the Church... Our social and cultural mission is not an option. We cannot retreat into religious ghettos, figuratively or literally.

Our mission requires that we understand what it means to be leaven, light, salt and the soul of the world as the early Christians taught. But we must always remember that the task we face is, at root, a spiritual struggle. It will only proceed through prayer, then it must be stepped into a new Christian missionary movement. The world awaits the compelling witness of a vibrant, orthodox, faithful Christian band of brothers and sisters living a faith which is culturally engaging, relevant and inspiring to the new pagans of our age.

We must lay out the parts. We cannot start the building and then fail to finish. Too much is at risk. We need a tower from which we can shout out the liberating truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to an age which has succumbed to so many lies. A tower from which we can see the field of struggle which lies before us and chart the course. It is time to build the tower. It is time to take the field and engage the struggle. To follow Jesus Christ is a commitment that comes before any other, even our commitment to our natural family. Now, we need not worry that the Lord will call us to abandon our spouses and children, but we must be clear. Loyalty to the Lord is more important than any other kind of loyalty. Jesus Christ is Lord.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 6, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Thursday, November 6th, 2025

### Reading 1, Romans 14:7-12

7 For none of us lives for himself and none of us dies for himself;

8 while we are alive, we are living for the Lord, and when we die, we die for the Lord: and so, alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

9 It was for this purpose that Christ both died and came to life again: so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 Why, then, does one of you make himself judge over his brother, and why does another among you despise his brother? All of us will have to stand in front of the judgement-seat of God:

11 as scripture says: By my own life says the Lord, every knee shall bow before me, every tongue shall give glory to God.

12 It is to God, then, that each of us will have to give an account of himself.

### 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?

2 When the wicked advance against me to eat me up, they, my opponents, my enemies, are the ones who stumble and fall.

3 Though an army pitch camp against me, my heart will not fear, though war break out against me, my trust will never be shaken.

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.

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## Gospel, Luke 15:1-10

1 The tax collectors and sinners, however, were all crowding round to listen to him,

2 and the Pharisees and scribes complained saying, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

3 So he told them this parable:

4 'Which one of you with a hundred sheep, if he lost one, would fail to leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the missing one till he found it?

5 And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders

6 and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, I have found my sheep that was lost."

7 In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner repenting than over ninety-nine upright people who have no need of repentance.

8 'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it?

9 And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, I have found the drachma I lost."

10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'



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## Questions for Reflection for November 6, 2025

1. In today's excerpt from the Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Romans, Paul explains that we are not to judge others. We are not our own. We have been, in a sense, "bought with a price", the blood of Jesus Christ. We now belong to God. It is not our role to judge others. Jesus Christ will judge all people. In fact, we will all stand before the Lord in what the Church teaches is our "particular judgment"

We will have to render an account for our lives. So, we are not the ones to render judgment on others. Often, our judgment of others can distract us from recognizing our own faults and failures. Instead of focusing on the errors and misdeeds of others, we should look inwards at our own shortcomings and work on those instead. For as Paul explains, Jesus is Lord of both the living and the dead.

2. Our responsorial psalm for today encourages us to be fearless. God is our light and salvation, so what have we to fear of darkness and death? Darkness and death are not for us, we who follow Yahweh. So, let us seek God here, in the land of the living, and put our hope in Him.
3. In our Gospel passage for today's Mass we hear a familiar parable, a beautiful parable, the parable of the lost sheep. Jesus explains that when we lose something of value, we will work hard to find it. Whether it is a sheep or a coin, we will search. Even if the item is of little monetary value, we may still spend a great deal of effort searching for it. We have all had this experience.

This is to help us understand how much God loves us. He not only seeks us, calling us from our hiding places, sending prophets and messengers to us, He sent His Son to save us. How valuable must something be that any of us would send our children to give their lives for it? This is how precious we are to God. Even the most lowly, the most poor, the most broken person is still so precious to God, that He sent His Son to die for us.

And so, when we return to God, can you imagine the rejoicing? Let us turn toward God, today. And let us be like the Shepherd who searches for lost sheep. We are all sinners. Thank God He never gives up on us. We must never give up on others.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 7, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Friday, November 7th, 2025

### Reading 1, Romans 15:14-21

14 My brothers, I am quite sure that you, in particular, are full of goodness, fully instructed and capable of correcting each other.

15 But I have special confidence in writing on some points to you, to refresh your memories, because of the grace that was given to me by God.

16 I was given grace to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the gentiles, dedicated to offer them the gospel of God, so that gentiles might become an acceptable offering, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

17 So I can be proud, in Christ Jesus, of what I have done for God.

18 Of course I can dare to speak only of the things which Christ has done through me to win the allegiance of the gentiles, using what I have said and done,

19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God. In this way, from Jerusalem and all round, even as far as Illyricum, I have fully carried out the preaching of the gospel of Christ;

20 and what is more, it has been my rule to preach the gospel only where the name of Christ has not already been heard, for I do not build on another's foundations;

21 in accordance with scripture: Those who have never been told about him will see him, and those who have never heard about him will understand.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

1 [Psalm] Sing a new song to Yahweh, for he has performed wonders, his saving power is in his right hand and his holy arm.

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!

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## Gospel, Luke 16:1-8

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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## Questions for Reflection for November 7, 2025

1. Today's first reading is from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. In this passage, Paul is recounting his own amazing calling in Jesus Christ. He was Saul, the Jewish Rabbi, a persecutor of the early followers of Jesus Christ. Yet, he encountered the Lord on the way to Damascus, and, through that encounter, he became a new man, a man named Paul, and an Apostle of Jesus sent to the Gentiles. He regularly reminds us to look past superficial divisions, and to see that we are all called to salvation to Jesus Christ, sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and called into the Church, with one another. Our divisions have been eliminated through the Cross and Resurrection.

Sin separates. Grace liberates. Faith integrates. We were separated from God because of sin. God sent His Son who paid the penalty for our sin and that separation was bridged. Sadly, sin also separates us from one another. Since the beginning of time, people have found ways to divide themselves from one another. By race, by religion, by social class, and more. But concentrating on these differences does little to bring peace.

It is Jesus who brings peace. In another letter, the Apostle Paul writes "now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end." (Eph 2:13-16)

We are joined to one another in a new relationship, in Jesus Christ.

2. Our responsorial psalm today invites us to proclaim a new song, to burst into shouts of joy. Remember to be grateful, and to be happy for what we have been given. Not only have we been given this earth and all its wonders, but we have also been brought into a relationship with the Creator of all this beauty. And He is more than the Creator. He is our Father. We have been made new in Jesus Christ in Jesus Christ and, through Him, His Father has become our Father. We are a truly blessed people.
3. In our Gospel, we learn about a wasteful steward, who Jesus explained was called to account. He was not a very good steward, but he was clever. Knowing that he was to be dismissed, the steward made use of the time he had left. He forgave the debts of others, so they would favor him later.  
If you wonder what our role would be in this parable, we are the steward. We are the ones who shall be called to account for our doings. However, knowing this we should do as the steward did, and make preparations for that day!

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Just as the steward forgave the debts of others, we too should forgive others'. We must recognize that Jesus has paid our debts. We will be called to give an accounting of how we used the talents the Lord gave us on Earth. Let us make preparations now while there is time. There is a challenge issued by the Lord today that should draw us to our knees. It is a challenge to "walk the talk", to live the message we proclaim by even bearing the name Christian, in a true unity of life.

In the parable of the dishonest steward, (Luke 16:1-13), Jesus makes it all so clear. He uses the industriousness of this dishonest steward to challenge us, to remind all of us that "the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light."

We are the children of light. How are we living our own lives? Are we allowing the light of truth to shine into every area of those lives? Do we believe that the Christian faith is to inform every aspect of how we live, or have we set apart certain areas which are outside of the reach of the saving truth of the Gospel?

We need to hear these words from Jesus with humility and honesty - and allow them to root themselves deep within us, so that they lead each one of us to a change in lifestyle.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 8, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Saturday, November 8th, 2025

### Reading 1, Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27

3 My greetings to Prisca and Aquila, my fellow-workers in Christ Jesus,

4 who risked their own necks to save my life; to them, thanks not only from me, but from all the churches among the gentiles;

5 and my greetings to the church at their house. Greetings to my dear friend Epänetus, the first of Asia's offerings to Christ.

6 Greetings to Mary, who worked so hard for you.

7 Greetings to those outstanding apostles, Andronicus and Junias, my kinsmen and fellow-prisoners, who were in Christ before me.

8 Greetings to Ampliatus, my dear friend in the Lord.

9 Greetings to Urban, my fellow-worker in Christ, and to my dear friend Stachys.

16 Greet each other with the holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send their greetings.

22 I, Tertius, who am writing this letter, greet you in the Lord.

23 Greetings to you from Gaius, my host here, and host of the whole church. Erastus, the city treasurer, sends greetings to you, and our brother Quartus.

24

25 And now to him who can make you strong in accordance with the gospel that I preach and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, in accordance with that mystery which for endless ages was kept secret

26 but now (as the prophets wrote) is revealed, as the eternal God commanded, to be made known to all the nations, so that they obey in faith:

27 to him, the only wise God, give glory through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

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## **Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11**

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.

4 Each age will praise your deeds to the next, proclaiming your mighty works.

5 Your renown is the splendour of your glory, I will ponder the story of your wonders.

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 16:9-15**

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.'

14 The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and jeered at him.

15 He said to them, 'You are the very ones who pass yourselves off as upright in people's sight, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed in human eyes is loathsome in the sight of God.'



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## Questions for Reflection for November 8, 2025

1. In our first reading we heard excerpts from the 16th chapter of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans. The genuine brotherly affection displayed in these greetings gives us an important insight into the nature of the Church. The Church is a relational reality.

We truly are brothers and sisters now, in Jesus Christ.

We are adopted sons and daughters of the Father. Sons and daughters in the Son. The early churches were small Christian communities which were centers for the spreading of the Gospel and places where the truths of the Christian faith were lived. That is what the Church is meant to be today as well. How do we view the Church? How do we understand our own membership in the Church?

2. The Psalm response today invites us to enter into a lifestyle of praising God. That is what David is doing. Do we praise the Lord every morning? Do we thank Him for all that He has done for us?

Do we recount the ways in which He has moved in our own lives? In our families?

Do we ponder his wonders? We can. We should. When we develop a lifestyle of praise, we begin to change. The focus comes off of ourselves and turns toward the Lord. That is the plan. And that is the path to true happiness and freedom. We were made to know, love and serve the Lord.

3. In the Gospel appointed for today's Holy Mass Jesus continues to teach His disciples concerning the proper approach to the goods of this earth, including money.

We are His contemporary disciples.

Notice that the Pharisees were "lovers of money".

Love should only be given to God and those who are joined to Him. When love is directed toward things, those things become idols. That includes money. We are taught to receive and use money to advance the kingdom of God. We cannot serve two masters. How do we understand our relationship with the goods of the earth? How do we use money?

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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 9, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Sunday, November 9th, 2025

### Reading 1, Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

1 He brought me back to the entrance of the Temple, where a stream flowed eastwards from under the Temple threshold, for the Temple faced east. The water flowed from under the right side of the Temple, south of the altar.

2 He took me out by the north gate and led me right round outside as far as the outer east gate where the water flowed out on the right-hand side.

8 He said, 'This water flows east down to the Arabah and to the sea; and flowing into the sea it makes its waters wholesome.

9 Wherever the river flows, all living creatures teeming in it will live. Fish will be very plentiful, for wherever the water goes it brings health, and life teems wherever the river flows.

12 Along the river, on either bank, will grow every kind of fruit tree with leaves that never wither and fruit that never fails; they will bear new fruit every month, because this water comes from the sanctuary. And their fruit will be good to eat and the leaves medicinal.'

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

2 so we shall not be afraid though the earth be in turmoil, though mountains tumble into the depths of the sea,

3 and its waters roar and seethe, and the mountains totter as it heaves. (Yahweh Sabaoth is with us, our citadel, the God of Jacob.)

5 God is in the city, it cannot fall; at break of day God comes to its rescue.

6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms are tumbling, when he raises his voice the earth crumbles away.

8 Come, consider the wonders of Yahweh, the astounding deeds he has done on the earth;

9 he puts an end to wars over the whole wide world, he breaks the bow, he snaps the spear, shields he burns in the fire.

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## Reading 2, 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17

9 After all, we do share in God's work; you are God's farm, God's building.

10 By the grace of God which was given to me, I laid the foundations like a trained master-builder, and someone else is building on them. Now each one must be careful how he does the building.

11 For nobody can lay down any other foundation than the one which is there already, namely Jesus Christ.

16 Do you not realise that you are a temple of God with the Spirit of God living in you?

17 If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy that person, because God's temple is holy; and you are that temple.

## Gospel, John 2:13-22

13 When the time of the Jewish Passover was near Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

14 and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and doves, and the money changers sitting there.

15 Making a whip out of cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, sheep and cattle as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over

16 and said to the dove sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop using my Father's house as a market.'

17 Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: I am eaten up with zeal for your house.

18 The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us that you should act like this?'

19 Jesus answered, 'Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'

20 The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple: are you going to raise it up again in three days?'

21 But he was speaking of the Temple that was his body,

22 and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and what he had said.

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## Questions for Reflection for November 9, 2025

1. In today's first reading from the Book of the Prophet, Ezekiel, we hear of his vision of an abundant stream flowing from the Temple. The Temple was the center of Jerusalem's public worship, and it contained the Ark of the Covenant. It was the place where God made Himself available, the place where He dwelt. When it was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, its loss was a tremendous blow to the Chosen people. But here, Ezekiel, himself captive in Babylon, assures the people that the new Temple, built seven decades after the destruction of the first, would be every bit as wonderful

In Ezekiel's vision, the stream represents God's grace, His Divine Life, the Holy Spirit. It also symbolizes for the Christian, the sanctifying and healing waters of Baptism, through which we are given new life and incorporated into Christ and His Church. The abundant fish and trees represent the gifts that flow from the goodness of God which will always flow. The fruit trees will be abundant and would even be medicinal. This is an image of the kingdom of God.

It is important to recognize that God pours out His grace. We do not need to live near the physical Jerusalem, or the sea, to enjoy it. All we need to do is visit the stream. We visit this stream each time we pray to the Lord, call upon the Holy Spirit, attend Holy Mass, read and contemplate the Word of God, and live in accord with the teachings of Jesus Christ.

2. Our responsorial psalm is one for times of trouble. Sometimes we can be prone to despair, as we see all the troubles in the world around us, and in our own lives. Jesus did not promise that our lives would be free from trouble! However, we have always been reassured that the outcome of these trials and tribulations is never in doubt.

This truth is echoed in our second reading from Paul, we hear that we are God's building, His farm, His temple. We are created in His Image. He lives in us, and we live in Him. The Apostle explains that if anyone destroys what God has raised up, then God will destroy that person. This is an important thing to understand. Those who destroy other people, for example, God's children in the womb, destroy themselves. This is why it is so important that we pray for the conversion of those hearts set on destroying the unborn. The Church and its people, including the unborn, are the Lords. What evildoers end up destroying is themselves. This is why even in the face of persecution; we must pray for our enemies.

3. Our Gospel passage for today is the well-known story of Jesus driving the money changers out of the temple. This story is often read as a cautionary tale, warning people against the sacrilegious use of Holy places and things. And that is a real warning drawn from this story. But there is another part to this story that is often overlooked. Jesus refers to His body as the new temple, and predicts that when it is destroyed, it will be raised up in three days.



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As history testifies, this is exactly what happened. We need to recognize that people, not buildings, not places, are what's important. And those who seek to destroy God's people succeed only in destroying themselves.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 10, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Monday, November 10th, 2025

### Reading 1, Wisdom 1:1-7

1 Love uprightness you who are rulers on earth, be properly disposed towards the Lord and seek him in simplicity of heart;

2 for he will be found by those who do not put him to the test, revealing himself to those who do not mistrust him.

3 Perverse thoughts, however, separate people from God, and power, when put to the test, confounds the stupid.

4 Wisdom will never enter the soul of a wrong-doer, nor dwell in a body enslaved to sin;

5 for the holy spirit of instruction flees deceitfulness, recoils from unintelligent thoughts, is thwarted by the onset of vice.

6 Wisdom is a spirit friendly to humanity, though she will not let a blasphemer's words go unpunished; since God observes the very soul and accurately surveys the heart, listening to every word.

7 For the spirit of the Lord fills the world, and that which holds everything together knows every word said.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 139:1-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-10

1 [For the choirmaster Of David Psalm] Yahweh, you examine me and know me,

2 you know when I sit, when I rise, you understand my thoughts from afar.

3 You watch when I walk or lie down, you know every detail of my conduct.

4 A word is not yet on my tongue before you, Yahweh, know all about it.

5 You fence me in, behind and in front, you have laid your hand upon me.

6 Such amazing knowledge is beyond me, a height to which I cannot attain.

7 Where shall I go to escape your spirit? Where shall I flee from your presence?



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8 If I scale the heavens you are there, if I lie flat in Sheol, there you are.

9 If I speed away on the wings of the dawn, if I dwell beyond the ocean,

10 even there your hand will be guiding me, your right hand holding me fast.

## **Gospel, Luke 17:1-6**

1 He said to his disciples, 'Causes of falling are sure to come, but alas for the one through whom they occur!

2 It would be better for such a person to be thrown into the sea with a millstone round the neck than to be the downfall of a single one of these little ones.

3 Keep watch on yourselves! 'If your brother does something wrong, rebuke him and, if he is sorry, forgive him.

4 And if he wrongs you seven times a day and seven times comes back to you and says, "I am sorry," you must forgive him.'

5 The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.'

6 The Lord replied, 'If you had faith like a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you.

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## Questions for Reflection for November 10, 2025

1. The Book of Wisdom, also called the Wisdom of Solomon, is an exhortation to the reader to pursue true wisdom. True Wisdom comes from the Lord. He is the source of all True wisdom. Often, unbelievers do not understand or comprehend the wisdom of God. Some may think the wisdom of the Lord is illogical. For others, it does not fit into their own human "wisdom" - so they dismiss pursuing it. But for believers, the wisdom of the Lord makes perfect sense. Today's passage from the Book of Wisdom explains why this was so back then, and still today.

A person cannot see God - His works, His wonder, and His miracles - if they do not have a heart filled with genuine faith. To see the world only through the eyes of human wisdom or even science or math, is often to see the trees, but not the forest. It is limited. Its perspective does not open up, it shuts.

When we no longer see or experience the presence of God in our lives, it is time to ask whether we are really praying, attending Holy Mass, or participating in the Sacraments. The Lord is always there. But it takes living faith in our hearts to see what is truly there. In the New Testament, the Letter of James explains it well in these words:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind."  
So, let us heed these words and seek the Wisdom of God to guide us, every day.

2. Our responsorial psalm is a great reminder that no matter where we go, the Lord is present. We cannot hide from God, or be lost from His sight, even in the depths of Sheol. Knowing this, let us be encouraged that God does not abandon His children, no matter how far away from Him they wander. The Lord will not abandon you. Trust Him. Turn to Him. Ask Him to intervene in your life, every day. And...see what happens.
3. Our Gospel for today from the Gospel of St Luke explains that it would be better for a person to die than to cause others to sin.

To cause another person to sin is called a "scandal," and it not only imperils the perpetrator, but also the victim. For this reason, a person who causes another person to sin bears a great and mortal burden. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us:

"Scandal is an attitude or behavior which leads another to do evil. The person who gives scandal becomes his neighbor's tempter.

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He damages virtue and integrity; he may even draw his brother into spiritual death. Scandal is a grave offense if by deed or omission another is deliberately led into a grave offense." (CCC #2284)

If we see others behaving scandalously, we have an important obligation to correct them. If they accept our correction, then we are obligated to forgive them, lest their scandal also impact us.

We live in a day when scandal seems to be increasing. For example, we have people serving in elected offices who profess to be Catholic, while they vote for and support evils such as legalized abortion on demand. They cause scandal. They should not only be voted out of office, they should be publicly corrected. Both for their own good and to prevent further scandal from occurring.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 11, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Tuesday, November 11th, 2025

### Reading 1, Wisdom 2:23--3:9

23 For God created human beings to be immortal, he made them as an image of his own nature;

24 Death came into the world only through the Devil's envy, as those who belong to him find to their cost.

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 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19

2 I will praise Yahweh from my heart; let the humble hear and rejoice.

3 Proclaim with me the greatness of Yahweh, let us acclaim his name together.

16 But Yahweh's face is set against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

17 They cry in anguish and Yahweh hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.

18 Yahweh is near to the broken-hearted, he helps those whose spirit is crushed.

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19 Though hardships without number beset the upright, Yahweh brings rescue from them all.

## **Gospel, Luke 17:7-10**

7 'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal at once"?

8 Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper ready; fasten your belt and wait on me while I eat and drink. You yourself can eat and drink afterwards"?

9 Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told?

10 So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are useless servants: we have done no more than our duty." '



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## Questions for Reflection for November 11, 2025

1. In our reading from the Book of Wisdom, we see what God intended, and still intends for us. We were not created to die. Death was caused by the sin of our first parents.

Adam and Eve were created in Original Justice. They enjoyed grace, communion with God, eternal life, and they were friends with all the animals. They experienced neither heat, nor cold, nor pain and suffering.

God issued one instruction to Adam and Eve, that they must never eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, He told them, "For in the day that you eat of it, you shall die." Yet the devil tempted them, persuading man to prefer himself instead of God. The devil deceived Adam and Eve, telling them they would become like God if they ate the fruit.

The moment they ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge, Adam and Eve lost their friendship and communion with God. They were separated from Him. They fell from grace and holiness. That wrong choice against God's loving plan is called the Fall. It is also called the original sin. After this sin, their knowledge of God became distorted. Adam and Eve saw God not as a friend, but as one to be feared. They took shame in their nakedness. They lost their harmony with one another, and the created order.

Because of this original Sin, a sin so great it has passed down to all their descendants, Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden by their own wrong choice. They and their descendants were henceforth to die. Death was not a part of God's original plan. It is a result of sin. They experienced pain and every kind of suffering. Their children knew labor and strife.

However, we were created in the Image of God. As the Church teaches, our freedom is modeled after God's freedom. Yet, in a sense, our freedom has been fractured and only the splint of the Cross of Jesus Christ can restore it. When we were baptized, we were freed from original sin, but we will struggle with what the Church calls "concupiscence", that tendency to sin, to make wrong choices, until we die. We need grace, the very life of God, to overcome it and grow in holiness and true freedom. God has offered His Son to redeem us. And when the redeemed die, we may mourn them. But let us also remember those who die in friendship with God will be saints, living with Him in love. For those of us who are righteous, grace and mercy await. We need not fear passing.

2. Our responsorial psalm invites us to praise God, for he hears the prayer of the righteous, and he is set against those who do evil. At the heart of our faith is the belief that justice will be served. And those who choose to follow God will be rewarded. God hears our prayers, and will deliver us from evil, especially when we "are broken hearted" as the Psalmist sings. When we realize our need for God and continually turn to Him.

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3. Our reading from the Gospel of Luke warns us against ever stopping our Christian work. We are servants, and the Lord is our master. He has set us to work in the mission field. And there is much work to be done. When we have finished an assignment, we must not assume we are ever done with our Christian work, this side of eternity.

a Christian understanding of human work views it through the lens of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. God Incarnate, Jesus the Christ, was a worker! The dignity of this God become Man thereby elevates the basic goodness of all human work. The early Church Father Gregory Nazianzus expressed the implications of the Incarnation best when he insisted that "Whatever was not assumed was not healed!" Because the entire human experience was assumed by Jesus, work, as a part of that human experience, has now been transformed by Christ the worker!

As a child, Jesus learned from Joseph the Worker how to work with wood. He would later voluntarily, out of Love, climb upon a wooden cross in order to re-create all humanity, making it new in the culmination of His great work of redemption. All of the work undertaken by Jesus was joined to His Heavenly Father's work. That is the same relationship we have with the Father now - through Jesus, with Him and in Him, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Though there is some biblical support that the toil and drudgery or "sweat" of work is connected to the fracture in the order of the universe occasioned by sin (see Gen 3:19), human work itself is not the punishment for sin. Work occurred before the Fall, in that Garden where our first parents lived in communion with God, one another and all creation.

We should present ourselves to God as humble servants, ready and willing to follow the vocation God has planned for us. There is much work to do, and we are called to serve until invited to the Lord's eternal wedding feast. Let us be good servants to our Lord, who made Himself the servant of all.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 12, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Wednesday, November 12th, 2025

### Reading 1, Wisdom 6:2-11

2 hear this, you who govern great populations, taking pride in your hosts of subject nations!

3 For sovereignty is given to you by the Lord and power by the Most High, who will himself probe your acts and scrutinise your intentions.

4 If therefore, as servants of his kingdom, you have not ruled justly nor observed the law, nor followed the will of God,

5 he will fall on you swiftly and terribly. On the highly placed a ruthless judgement falls;

6 the lowly are pardoned, out of pity, but the mighty will be mightily tormented.

7 For the Lord of all does not cower before anyone, he does not stand in awe of greatness, since he himself has made small and great and provides for all alike;

8 but a searching trial awaits those who wield power.

9 So, monarchs, my words are meant for you, so that you may learn wisdom and not fall into error;

10 for those who in holiness observe holy things will be adjudged holy, and, accepting instruction from them, will find their defence in them.

11 Set your heart, therefore, on what I have to say, listen with a will, and you will be instructed.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 82:3-4, 6-7

3 Let the weak and the orphan have justice, be fair to the wretched and the destitute.

4 'Rescue the weak and the needy, save them from the clutches of the wicked.

6 I had thought, "Are you gods, are all of you sons of the Most High?"

7 No! you will die as human beings do, as one man, princes, you will fall.'

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## Gospel, Luke 17:11-19

11 Now it happened that on the way to Jerusalem he was travelling in the borderlands of Samaria and Galilee.

12 As he entered one of the villages, ten men suffering from a virulent skin-disease came to meet him. They stood some way off

13 and called to him, 'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.'

14 When he saw them he said, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' Now as they were going away they were cleansed.

15 Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice

16 and threw himself prostrate at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan.

17 This led Jesus to say, 'Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they?

18 It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.'

19 And he said to the man, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'



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## Questions for Reflection for November 12, 2025

1. Our first reading from the Book of Wisdom, is a warning to all who are in leadership. With it comes great responsibility. This admonishment is meant not only for kings, but for all who wield authority over others. It is particularly true for those who stand in Christ, by virtue of Holy Orders, and purport to exercise His Authority!

God sees what we do. He is aware of our innermost intentions. We will be judged if we abuse our authority. We will also be judged by how we use our authority. Just as we are expected to make Godly use of our freedom and talents, we are also to make Godly use of our exercise of authority.

Let us lead and direct, whatever we do, with genuine humility.

2. Today's psalm calls upon judges to rule with fairness, and to rescue the weak and needy from the wicked. For human judges will be judged by God Himself. They will render an account.

These words to the wise are for us as well, for although we may not be judges, we often judge others. Let us not judge the weak and the needy by a different standard. Instead, let us seek to be fair, and to rescue them from the wicked. It is no crime to be poor, in fact, Jesus became poor so that we might attain the riches of heaven. It is a crime to exploit those who are poor.

3. Our parable in the Gospel of St. Luke tells the story of ten lepers who were healed by Jesus. But only one took the trouble to come back and thank Him.

We have spoken previously about the scourge of leprosy, and how it was both stigmatizing and fatal during the time of Christ. In fact, it remained a terrible illness until the modern era, when we finally learned how to cure it through modern medicine.

There are numerous stories concerning lepers in the Bible. In the Second Book of Kings in the Old Testament we read of a leper named Naaman, a Syrian army commander, who encountered the Prophet of God, Elisha and was cured. This cure drew Naaman to faith in the True God. He proclaimed: "Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel". (2Kings 5:14-17) This story is our first reading. The physical cure brought an even greater gift to Naaman, the revelation of the meaning of his existence. He was in a relationship with God.

In the Gospel we hear St. Luke's account of the healing of the ten lepers. (Luke 17: 11-19). They all stood at a distance in the presence of Jesus. This was the requirement of the Jewish Law. Leprosy was highly contagious and deeply scorned in the days when Jesus walked among us in the flesh. Some believed it was punishment for sin.

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However, these lepers met Mercy and Love Incarnate on this glorious day of their healing. The Leper who returned shows us all the way to live.

Our Christian vocation calls us to follow Jesus; to live as Jesus lives, to love as He loves and to become holy as He is holy, by embracing His plans for our life and living differently because of them. Spiritually we were all lepers, desperately in need of God's mercy. God's mercy came - and always comes - through Jesus Christ. We are now called to become a people who receive and give Mercy - and a people who always come back to give thanks!



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection November 13, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Thursday, November 13th, 2025

### Reading 1, Wisdom 7:22--8:1

22 For within her is a spirit intelligent, holy, unique, manifold, subtle, mobile, incisive, unsullied, lucid, invulnerable, benevolent, shrewd,

23 irresistible, beneficent, friendly to human beings, steadfast, dependable, unperturbed, almighty, all-surveying, penetrating all intelligent, pure and most subtle spirits.

24 For Wisdom is quicker to move than any motion; she is so pure, she pervades and permeates all things.

25 She is a breath of the power of God, pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; so nothing impure can find its way into her.

26 For she is a reflection of the eternal light, untarnished mirror of God's active power, and image of his goodness.

27 Although she is alone, she can do everything; herself unchanging, she renews the world, and, generation after generation, passing into holy souls, she makes them into God's friends and prophets;

28 for God loves only those who dwell with Wisdom.

29 She is indeed more splendid than the sun, she outshines all the constellations; compared with light, she takes first place,

30 for light must yield to night, but against Wisdom evil cannot prevail.

1 Strongly she reaches from one end of the world to the other and she governs the whole world for its good.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 119:89, 90, 91, 130, 135, 175

89 For ever, Yahweh, your word is planted firm in heaven.

90 Your constancy endures from age to age; you established the earth and it stands firm.

91 Through your judgements all stands firm to this day, for all creation is your servant.

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130 As your word unfolds it gives light, and even the simple understand.

135 Let your face shine on your servant, teach me your will.

175 May I live only to praise you, may your judgements be my help.

## **Gospel, Luke 17:20-25**

20 Asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was to come, he gave them this answer, 'The coming of the kingdom of God does not admit of observation

21 and there will be no one to say, "Look, it is here! Look, it is there!" For look, the kingdom of God is among you.'

22 He said to the disciples, 'A time will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of man and will not see it.

23 They will say to you, "Look, it is there!" or, "Look, it is here!" Make no move; do not set off in pursuit;

24 for as the lightning flashing from one part of heaven lights up the other, so will be the Son of man when his Day comes.

25 But first he is destined to suffer grievously and be rejected by this generation.



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## Questions for Reflection for November 13, 2025

1. Our first reading from the Book of Wisdom speaks of the Wisdom of God, in which we participate. Wisdom is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Wisdom is not the ability to quote facts. That is a kind of human knowledge. It can be good if it is used properly. But it is not wisdom.

Wisdom is the ability to understand things from God's point of view. It enables us to recognize the Truth. When we see the world with the eyes of wisdom, we can choose Godly approaches to that which confronts us.

Wisdom is revealed in the Natural Moral Law, which is written on the heart of every person, even if they have never read the Bible or received instruction in the ways of Christ. The Natural law is a participation in the Eternal or Divine Law. But it is fully revealed in Jesus Christ.

We should all seek to cultivate wisdom. To do this, prayer and contemplation are essential. We must stay plugged into the source of all true Wisdom. We should strive to see things from the perspective of the Lord. And when we struggle with understanding, we can cultivate wisdom by reading the words of the wise, in the Bible, and in the writings of the Saints and the Magisterium, the teaching office of the Church.

True Wisdom is within our reach, precisely because the One who holds it all has reached out to us. It is written on our hearts. It is made fully manifest in Jesus Christ who is the very wisdom of God made flesh. The Apostle Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians that Jesus Christ is "the power of God and the wisdom of God". (1 Cor. 1:24)

2. Our responsorial psalm reminds us that Yahweh's judgements stand firm to this day. They are unchanging. While the laws of people change from age to age, the laws of God are written the same on every heart, and they never change. What was wrong in the age before ours, remains wrong today, no matter what the civil laws of any given society say. And what was righteous in the age before ours, remains right today, no matter what any civil society may say.
3. In our reading from the Gospel of Luke, a Pharisee demanded Jesus produce the Kingdom of God now. Some of the Pharisees found it difficult to believe that Jesus could be the promised Messiah, since He appeared humble and lowly. Jesus responded that the Kingdom of God cannot be seen by those who were hostile to Him, because He Himself was the Kingdom, being manifested.

The question asked by the Pharisees echoes throughout time as men and women experience the travail unleashed by man's separation from God. The effects are within us and around us.

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That separation is the result of sin. It can only be healed through a Savior. The Good News, which is what the word Gospel actually means, is that the Father has sent the Savior, Jesus Christ. He has inaugurated the Kingdom. It is among us right now.

Yet, what we witness around us - and experience within us - often does not reflect God's loving plan. We know that and we long for more. We long for the fullness of His Kingdom. With His response to the Pharisees the Lord opens a deeper understanding of the Kingdom as a present reality. He also instructs us concerning our vocation as disciples to continue its spread - its increase - its realization - within us, among us, and in the whole world. The word kingdom can also be translated "reign" of God. In Jesus Christ the Reign of God has already come and is coming.

In Jesus Christ, the Kingdom has been inaugurated. Upon his return it will be made complete and fully manifested in a new heaven and a new earth. We are members of the Body of Christ which makes it present here and now - as seed and sign for a world which is in labor. (See, Romans 8:22) We are a people sent on mission into that world waiting to be fully liberated from the bondage of sin.

Our mission now is to bring men and women into the Body of the Savior, the Church, which is the seed of His Kingdom.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 14, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Friday, November 14th, 2025

### Reading 1, Wisdom 13:1-9

1 Yes, naturally stupid are all who are unaware of God, and who, from good things seen, have not been able to discover Him-who-is, or, by studying the works, have not recognised the Artificer.

2 Fire, however, or wind, or the swift air, the sphere of the stars, impetuous water, heaven's lamps, are what they have held to be the gods who govern the world.

3 If, charmed by their beauty, they have taken these for gods, let them know how much the Master of these excels them, since he was the very source of beauty that created them.

4 And if they have been impressed by their power and energy, let them deduce from these how much mightier is he that has formed them,

5 since through the grandeur and beauty of the creatures we may, by analogy, contemplate their Author.

6 Small blame, however, attaches to them, for perhaps they go astray only in their search for God and their eagerness to find him;

7 familiar with his works, they investigate them and fall victim to appearances, seeing so much beauty.

8 But even so, they have no excuse:

9 if they are capable of acquiring enough knowledge to be able to investigate the world, how have they been so slow to find its Master?

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 19:2-3, 4-5

2 day discourses of it to day, night to night hands on the knowledge.

3 No utterance at all, no speech, not a sound to be heard,

4 but from the entire earth the design stands out, this message reaches the whole world. High above, he pitched a tent for the sun,

5 who comes forth from his pavilion like a bridegroom, delights like a champion in the course to be run.

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## Gospel, Luke 17:26-37

26 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it also be in the days of the Son of man.

27 People were eating and drinking, marrying wives and husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and the Flood came and destroyed them all.

28 It will be the same as it was in Lot's day: people were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building,

29 but the day Lot left Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and it destroyed them all.

30 It will be the same when the day comes for the Son of man to be revealed.

31 'When that Day comes, no one on the housetop, with his possessions in the house, must come down to collect them, nor must anyone in the fields turn back.

32 Remember Lot's wife.

33 Anyone who tries to preserve his life will lose it; and anyone who loses it will keep it safe.

34 I tell you, on that night, when two are in one bed, one will be taken, the other left;

35 when two women are grinding corn together, one will be taken, the other left.'

36

37 The disciples spoke up and asked, 'Where, Lord?' He said, 'Where the body is, there too will the vultures gather.'

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## Questions for Reflection for November 14, 2025

1. Our reading from the Book of Wisdom reminds us that God, the source of all that is beautiful, good, true and noble, has revealed Himself to us through the beauty of creation. Yet, some people, despite seeing the work of God, beholding the beauty of creation, cannot see God in His own handiwork.

God is the Divine Artist, and the beauty of creation reflects His Beauty. But they fail to see it, because they are not open to the work of Wisdom, the work of the Spirit of God. Sometimes, they even see creation itself as a "god". They see the sky and the stars, they see the waters, and the majesty of the Earth, but they cannot see God, the One who created them all. It is much like the old adage, being unable to see the forest through the trees.

Why? Some people excel at cultivating worldly knowledge. They can quote many facts with accuracy. But they have not cultivated spiritual wisdom. Spiritual Wisdom is a gift of the Holy Spirit. It is imprinted on our hearts. It comes to us, in studying God's word. It is communicated to us through the Sacraments, such as Confirmation. Spiritual Wisdom enables us to see things from God's perspective; this heavenly Wisdom opens our spiritual eyes to see heavenly realities. Let us ask the Lord to give us this wisdom, so that we may behold Him and learn to love Him and follow Him.

2. Our responsorial psalm extends the theme of our first reading, explaining that the handiwork of God is evident in the very design of the Earth and heavens above. As scientists have previously discovered, the conditions here on Earth are precisely tailored for human life. Dozens of variables have been identified, and if even one of them were different by a fraction, life as we know it, could not exist. The fingerprints of God are all over creation, and we must cultivate our ability to see them with eyes of wisdom.
3. Our Gospel reading offers a vision of the last day, when the Son of Man shall return. Only some shall be taken up, and others will be left behind. What makes the difference is where our attention lies.

If you wonder what your fate will be, consider the Gospel, for in today's reading, Jesus has already explained.

For those whose attention is on the things of this earth, there they shall remain. Only those whose attention is upon the kingdom of heaven, those who are living for and looking for the Lord, will be taken up. Those who realizing the last day has come, who turn their attention only to their worldly business and possessions, will be left behind. Those who cower in fear, those who hide, will be left behind.

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Understand there is nothing in this world that is worth your time and energy so much as your soul and your eternal salvation. Consider where your attention lies now. And if you feel you need to change your priorities, now is a good time to make the change. We know not the day or the hour, but we are certain of its coming. Let us always live ready. Keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, for He is coming.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 15, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Saturday, November 15th, 2025

### Reading 1, Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9

14 When peaceful silence lay over all, and night had run the half of her swift course,

15 down from the heavens, from the royal throne, leapt your all-powerful Word like a pitiless warrior into the heart of a land doomed to destruction. Carrying your unambiguous command like a sharp sword,

16 it stood, and filled the universe with death; though standing on the earth, it touched the sky.

6 For the whole creation, submissive to your commands, had its very nature re-created, so that your children should be preserved from harm.

7 Overshadowing the camp there was the cloud; where there had been water, dry land was seen to rise; the Red Sea became an unimpeded way, the tempestuous waves, a green plain;

8 sheltered by your hand, the whole nation passed across, gazing at these amazing prodigies.

9 They were like horses at pasture, they skipped like lambs, singing your praises, Lord, their deliverer.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 105:2-3, 36-37, 42-43

2 Sing to him, make music for him, recount all his wonders!

3 Glory in his holy name, let the hearts that seek Yahweh rejoice!

36 He struck all the first-born in their land, the flower of all their manhood;

37 he led Israel out with silver and gold; in their tribes there was none who stumbled.

42 Faithful to his sacred promise, given to his servant Abraham,

43 he led out his people with rejoicing, his chosen ones with shouts of joy.

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## Gospel, Luke 18:1-8

1 Then he told them a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart.

2 'There was a judge in a certain town,' he said, 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for anyone.

3 In the same town there was also a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!"

4 For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Even though I have neither fear of God nor respect for any human person,

5 I must give this widow her just rights since she keeps pestering me, or she will come and slap me in the face." '

6 And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say?

7 Now, will not God see justice done to his elect if they keep calling to him day and night even though he still delays to help them?

8 I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'



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## Questions for Reflection for November 15, 2025

1. In today's first reading, we hear described what happened when the Lord's people made their way out of captivity in Egypt. The Lord worked great and irresistible miracles in the sight of all, to save His people.

This is a testament to God's incredible power. Yes, power which He desires us to experience in our own lives as well. Yet, how many of us live in awe of such power? How many of us actually expect such power to be operative today? We live in an age where God's miracles are dismissed or ignored. The very miracle of life itself is dismissed as a trivial thing.

As Christians, we are called to encounter and recognize the miracles around us. God is still working them! He has never stopped. If we cultivate wisdom, a gift of the Holy Spirit, we will begin to see these miracles around us.

Before we question whether or not the Lord is working miracles still, let us better ask, if we are seeing with the eyes of wisdom, the eyes of living faith.

2. Our responsorial psalm tells us how we should respond to Yahweh, who works miracles from the beginning of time to the present day. We are invited to sing and rejoice! In fact, how can we not?

Imagine the immense joy we feel when we receive a great blessing, be it the birth of a child or grandchild, a promotion at work, or some other windfall. These blessings happen all the time. They're in the good food we eat, the warmth of our home, the love of our family and friends. They're in the comfort we find in prayer, and the power of God's grace.

Knowing this, how can we refrain from being joyful?

3. In today's Gospel from the Book of Luke, we learn the importance of praying continually, without losing heart. The story is meant to introduce the listeners, and that includes us, to persevering prayer.

Losing heart in prayer is a great danger, but it is a sign that we should approach our prayer differently.

The Prayer of worship is a duty, outlined in the First Commandment. But it is also a joy, because it is how we can converse with the one who loves us more than any other. We can listen for wisdom, words which will profit us better than any earthly advice. And of course, we can lift our petitions to God, and sometimes the answer is quick to come. But sometimes it is not.

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Sometimes our petitions do not seem to be answered as quickly as we wish. Or perhaps the answer isn't one we want to hear. When the focus of our prayer is to get our own way, then it is easy to become discouraged.

The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you; he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:1-8)

Jesus connects persevering in prayer and living faith for good reason. Prayer is a direct consequence of such living faith, a sign that we truly believe that the Lord really hears our prayers and cares about us. Do we? We need to grow in our understanding of the ways of prayer, including this kind of persevering prayer of which the Lord speaks.

In an age of fast food, fast cars and fast internet, we seem to be running all the time. Yet, even with our digital calendars, we risk missing the most important meeting of all, our appointment with the Lord. We place our very selves at risk when we do so.

Yesterday's relationship with the Lord is not sufficient for today. Yesterday's prayer cannot keep us in the presence of the Lord. We need to cultivate an ongoing relationship with the Lord if we hope to see clearly with the eyes of living faith.

We need to regularly and continually talk to Him. When we have a need, we need to present that need to the One who is not only a just Judge, but a loving Father.

If you find yourself losing heart in prayer, ask why. Ask if you are focused on God, or on a distraction. And as Jesus advised, be persistent! Do not stop. For those who seek communion with the Lord, there is good news; His answer to that most important petition is always yes!



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 16, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Sunday, November 16th, 2025

### Reading 1, Malachi 3:19-20

19 'For look, the Day is coming, glowing like a furnace. All the proud and all the evil-doers will be the stubble, and the Day, when it comes, will set them ablaze, says Yahweh Sabaoth, leaving them neither root nor branch.

20 But for you who fear my name, the Sun of justice will rise with healing in his rays, and you will come out leaping like calves from the stall,

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 98:5-6, 7-8, 9

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.

7 Let the sea thunder, and all that it holds, the world and all who live in it.

8 Let the rivers clap their hands, and the mountains shout for joy together,

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

### Reading 2, Second Thessalonians 3:7-12

7 You know how you should take us as your model: we were not undisciplined when we were with you,

8 nor did we ever accept food from anyone without paying for it; no, we worked with unsparing energy, night and day, so as not to be a burden on any of you.

9 This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to imitate.

10 We urged you when we were with you not to let anyone eat who refused to work.

11 Now we hear that there are some of you who are living lives without any discipline, doing no work themselves but interfering with other people's.

12 In the Lord Jesus Christ, we urge and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

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## Gospel, Luke 21:5-19

5 When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, he said,

6 'All these things you are staring at now -- the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another; everything will be destroyed.'

7 And they put to him this question, 'Master,' they said, 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that it is about to take place?'

8 But he said, 'Take care not to be deceived, because many will come using my name and saying, "I am the one" and "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them.

9 And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be terrified, for this is something that must happen first, but the end will not come at once.'

10 Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

11 There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines in various places; there will be terrifying events and great signs from heaven.

12 'But before all this happens, you will be seized and persecuted; you will be handed over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and brought before kings and governors for the sake of my name

13 -and that will be your opportunity to bear witness.

14 Make up your minds not to prepare your defence,

15 because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict.

16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death.

17 You will be hated universally on account of my name,

18 but not a hair of your head will be lost.

19 Your perseverance will win you your lives.

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## Questions for Reflection for November 16, 2025

1. Our first reading contains a warning for how things shall be in the last days. Those who abuse their human freedom to choose, who sin, and that is what sin is - Those who follow evil ways shall be burned as stubble. But those who follow the ways of the Lord shall leap as calves released from the stall. And whatever injuries we have suffered at the hands of the unrighteous, the Lord shall heal. Let us live in the knowledge that God's justice will prevail, and we who keep his ways shall be free.

In our responsorial psalm, we are invited to proclaim the coming of the Lord, for He bring justice. Justice is important. It is the assurance that evil will be punished and good will be rewarded, that each person will receive their due. But in the time when the Psalms were composed, the people of Israel felt it was difficult to obtain justice. And it is no different today. The wealthy and the well-connected seemed to get one thing, and the rest of us another.

But God is the perfect judge. He sees and knows all. He knows what is in our heart. He knows every truth. And unlike human justice, the Lord's justice will satisfy.

2. In the second reading from the second letter of the Apostle Paul to the Thessalonians, Paul has received bit of bad news. Some in the those in the Christian community are refusing to work. Their reasoning is that the return of the Lord is imminent, therefore, there is no need to labor. Not only was that bad theology, it was upsetting the very way of life of the early Church.

In the Gospel, Jesus explained that the end times would indeed come, but no one knows the day or the hour. First, there would be many persecutions. We are to be patient, and continue to labor, in the Lord. Paul's response was to take the logic of the lazy ones to the next, absurd level. If the moment is so near, then why bother to eat! Those who do not work, shall not eat.

However, we know there is tremendous work to be done. This is what Jesus sent the Apostles to do. This is why instead of simply preaching, the Apostles worked tirelessly. They burdened none with their presence, and worked hard to contribute to the communities they visited. They performed manual labor when needed. Paul was a tentmaker and returned to his work, at times, rather than burden the early Church. Work is good.

A Catholic Christian vision of work views it in light of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ: God became a human person! The early Church Father, Gregory the Theologian (Nazianzus), reflecting on the Incarnation, proclaimed "Whatever was not assumed was not healed!" The insight has the potential to revolutionize the way we view our own work!

The entirety of the human experience was assumed by Jesus Christ, including our labor, our human work - no matter what form that human work takes.



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It was transformed by Jesus Christ the worker! The Son of God worked. Even as a child he learned from Joseph, the carpenter, and worked with wood, with His Holy hands. Certainly, he sweated, got dirty and even experienced tedium at times, but because He was in communion with His Heavenly Father all of his work was joined to the Father's work.

That is the same relationship we now have with the Father through our Baptism into Jesus Christ.

3. As we approach the end of the Liturgical year our Scripture readings for Holy Mass point us to the culmination of our experience of time and the beginning of eternity. With vivid language we hear of the "parousia", the Second Coming of the Lord. Sadly, a virtual cottage industry has grown up around a misguided attempt to "read the signs of the times", complete with timelines and false predictions. Many of these efforts generate fear, rather than inviting the living faith which is the key to making ourselves ready for the great event.

Christians have always believed in, and anticipated, the Second Coming of the Lord. It is the focal point of our life and worldview. The early Christians used an Aramaic word to express the hope it generated "Maranatha", loosely translated "Come Lord Jesus". The words written by the beloved Disciple John in the Revelation given to him on that island of Patmos, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev 22:20) - reflect an early liturgical phrase and reveal a lifestyle of living ready.

This event, the Second Coming, is our "True North." Jesus will come to close the current period of human history and establish the Kingdom. During these last weeks of the Church year which lead us to the marvelous Feast of Christ the King of the Universe, we are invited to reflect on how we are living the fullness of the Gospel and whether we are making ourselves - indeed the entire human race and created order - more ready for His Return.

Jesus has sent us into the world to work as missionaries. He continues His redemptive mission through us. And we serve that mission in all the work we do. It does not matter if we are homemakers, wage earners, or work in a nice office. We are to approach all work with the same Christian zeal as the Apostles. Let us be a burden to none. And while we wait for the Kingdom to come, let us work hard, performing manual labor even, to help hasten the coming of God's kingdom.

As we approach the end of the Churches liturgical year and the Feast of Christ the King, on the last Sunday of the Year, all of our readings will focus us on the end ---which is the beginning. The Coming of the Lord to judge the living and the dead, will be the beginning of the New Heaven and New Earth. So, our liturgical calendar invites us always to prepare for the Second Coming, while we live our lives in the Lord, productively now.

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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 17, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Monday, November 17th, 2025

### Reading 1, First Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63

10 From these there grew a wicked offshoot, Antiochus Epiphanes son of King Antiochus; once a hostage in Rome, he became king in the 107th year of the kingdom of the Greeks.

11 It was then that there emerged from Israel a set of renegades who led many people astray. 'Come,' they said, 'let us ally ourselves with the gentiles surrounding us, for since we separated ourselves from them many misfortunes have overtaken us.'

12 This proposal proved acceptable,

13 and a number of the people eagerly approached the king, who authorised them to practise the gentiles' observances.

14 So they built a gymnasium in Jerusalem, such as the gentiles have,

15 disguised their circumcision, and abandoned the holy covenant, submitting to gentile rule as willing slaves of impiety.

41 The king then issued a proclamation to his whole kingdom that all were to become a single people, each nation renouncing its particular customs.

42 All the gentiles conformed to the king's decree,

43 and many Israelites chose to accept his religion, sacrificing to idols and profaning the Sabbath.

54 On the fifteenth day of Chislev in the year 145 the king built the appalling abomination on top of the altar of burnt offering; and altars were built in the surrounding towns of Judah

55 and incense offered at the doors of houses and in the streets.

56 Any books of the Law that came to light were torn up and burned.

57 Whenever anyone was discovered possessing a copy of the covenant or practising the Law, the king's decree sentenced him to death.

62 Yet there were many in Israel who stood firm and found the courage to refuse unclean food.

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63 They chose death rather than contamination by such fare or profanation of the holy covenant, and they were executed.

## **Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158**

53 Fury grips me when I see the wicked who abandon your Law.

61 Though caught in the snares of the wicked, I do not forget your Law.

134 Rescue me from human oppression, and I will observe your precepts.

150 My pursuers are coming closer to their wicked designs, and further from your Law.

155 Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek your will.

158 The sight of these renegades appals me; they do not observe your promise.

## **Gospel, Luke 18:35-43**

35 Now it happened that as he drew near to Jericho there was a blind man sitting at the side of the road begging.

36 When he heard the crowd going past he asked what it was all about,

37 and they told him that Jesus the Nazarene was passing by.

38 So he called out, 'Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me.'

39 The people in front scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.'

40 Jesus stopped and ordered them to bring the man to him, and when he came up, asked him,

41 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Sir,' he replied, 'let me see again.'

42 Jesus said to him, 'Receive your sight. Your faith has saved you.'

43 And instantly his sight returned and he followed him praising God, and all the people who saw it gave praise to God.

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## Questions for Reflection for November 17, 2025

1. Our first reading is drawn from the Book of Maccabees. It takes place at a time, about 170 years before Christ, when Israel was ruled by foreign kings. One of those kings was Antiochus IV. This king reversed a long tradition of leaving the Jewish people to live in peace. He began to persecute many of the Lord's people.

Out of fear of persecution, or out of a desire to conform, some Israelites joined the Gentiles. There was a great falling away, as some of the Chosen people of Israel, the ones whom God had chosen to reveal Himself to the Nations, fell into idolatry. But many remained faithful. And some remained faithful, even to the point of facing death.

Today, we live in a world where we are encouraged to join the increasingly secularist culture and, bow to new idols. We are discouraged from sharing our faith in public. In some places, Christians are being persecuted, even to the point of death. In others, such as the West, there is a sort of "soft" persecution. People are losing their reputations for staying faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. Some are losing their jobs...and the hostility toward Christians is on the increase.

How do we respond in the face of these circumstances? Do we still pray for our enemies, and fearlessly proclaim the Gospel? For this is what love requires we do. If we love our enemies, and those who persecute us, then we have a duty to warn them of danger, and to proclaim the Good News to them. Even if it means we shall be persecuted. God will give us the grace.

2. In today's responsorial psalm, David expresses his anger at the wicked. Wickedness is the result of a choice to do evil. At a time when so many people are offended by so many things, how about wickedness? We should all be angry and offended by evil; the evils of abortion, the persecution of Christians, the many attacks upon the Church, from both within and without, and the public encouragement of disorder and vice. These are wicked things, and it is right for us to be offended by them.

But the psalmist also has a response. We must remember the Law. We must observe the Lord's precepts and seek God's will. Do this, and we will be saved from all their snares.

3. Our Gospel for today tells the story of how Jesus restored a blind man to sight, because of his faith in Christ. What makes this blind man remarkable, is the persistence of his faith. Even though he was admonished to keep quiet, he did not allow public pressure to stop him from seeking Christ.

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We are all blinded by sin. The Sacrament of Baptism was called the Sacrament of the Enlightenment in the early Church for good reason. Yet, we need to keep that light of living faith alive. We do that by cultivating a lifestyle of prayer and living the faith which we profess.

We are called to follow this example of the blind man whose eyes were opened. Although we are tainted by sin, we can be saved by Jesus Christ. And when the public tells us to be quiet, we should be encouraged to shout all the louder! Finally, once we have been blessed, we should go forth and thankfully proclaim the good news to others, so they too can be saved. And their eyes will be opened.

We are invited today to be the people who always want to see Jesus. That desire should draw us ever more deeply into a life of prayer and communion. It is there, in the intimacy fueled by living faith, that we receive the light we need to see the Lord. St. Augustine once warned of what can happen when we turn away from that light: "Love for the shadows ends up making the eyes of the soul weaker and weaker. The eyes become unable to see the face of God. Therefore, the more a man gives into his weakness, the more he slips into darkness." Let us ask the Lord for the grace we need to persevere in the faith.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 18, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Tuesday, November 18th, 2025

### Reading 1, Second Maccabees 6:18-31

18 Eleazar, one of the foremost teachers of the Law, a man already advanced in years and of most noble appearance, had his mouth forced open, to make him eat a piece of pork.

19 But he, resolving to die with honour rather than to live disgraced, walked of his own accord to the torture of the wheel,

20 having spat the stuff out, as befits those with the courage to reject what is not lawful to taste, rather than live.

21 The people supervising the ritual meal, forbidden by the Law, because of the length of time for which they had known him, took him aside and privately urged him to have meat brought of a kind he could properly use, prepared by himself, and only pretend to eat the portions of sacrificial meat as prescribed by the king;

22 this action would enable him to escape death, by availing himself of an act of kindness prompted by their long friendship.

23 But having taken a noble decision worthy of his years and the dignity of his great age and the well-earned distinction of his grey hairs, worthy too of his impeccable conduct from boyhood, and above all of the holy legislation established by God himself, he answered accordingly, telling them to send him at once to Hades.

24 'Pretence', he said, 'does not befit our time of life; many young people would suppose that Eleazar at the age of ninety had conformed to the foreigners' way of life

25 and, because I had played this part for the sake of a paltry brief spell of life, might themselves be led astray on my account; I should only bring defilement and disgrace on my old age.

26 Even though for the moment I avoid execution by man, I can never, living or dead, elude the grasp of the Almighty.

27 Therefore if I am man enough to quit this life here and now, I shall prove myself worthy of my old age,

28 and I shall have left the young a noble example of how to make a good death, eagerly and generously, for the venerable and holy laws.' So saying, he walked straight to the wheel,



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29 while those who were escorting him, recently so well disposed towards him, turned against him after this declaration, which they regarded as sheer madness.

30 He for his part, just before he died under the blows, gave a sigh and said, 'The Lord whose knowledge is holy sees clearly that, though I might have escaped death, from awe of him I gladly endure these agonies of body under the lash, and that in my soul I am glad to suffer.'

31 This was how he died, leaving his death as an example of nobility and a record of virtue not only for the young but for the greater part of the nation.

## **Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-8**

2 how countless those who say of me, 'No salvation for him from his God!

3 But you, Yahweh, the shield at my side, my glory, you hold my head high.

4 I cry out to Yahweh; he answers from his holy mountain.

5 As for me, if I lie down and sleep, I shall awake, for Yahweh sustains me.

6 I have no fear of people in their thousands upon thousands, who range themselves against me wherever I turn.

7 Arise, Yahweh, rescue me, my God! You strike all my foes across the face, you break the teeth of the wicked.

8 In Yahweh is salvation, on your people, your blessing!

## **Gospel, Luke 19:1-10**

1 He entered Jericho and was going through the town

2 and suddenly a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man.

3 He kept trying to see which Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd;

4 so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way.

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5 When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I am to stay at your house today.'

6 And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully.

7 They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house,' they said.

8 But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.'

9 And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham;

10 for the Son of man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'



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## Questions for Reflection for November 18, 2025

1. Our first reading from the Book of Second Maccabees tells how Eleazar, a man of ninety years, chose death over sin, sanctity over apostasy and holiness and fidelity over causing scandal.

To save his life, Eleazar had only to consume a tiny bit of pork, which is forbidden under Jewish law. His own torturers, impressed with his courage and faith, devised a scheme whereby he could merely appear to eat a bit of pork. If only he would commit this small act of deception, he could save his life.

But Eleazar would not hear of it. He explained, that to do such a thing could cause scandal, that is he would tempt others to sin. So, rather than engage in scandalous behavior, Eleazar chose to die upon the wheel, a terrible execution in which a person is murdered by having all the bones in their body broken. He showed many courage and heroic virtue. He honored God.

This is how we should pray to be if we are invited to deny the Lord or cause scandal to our brethren. When we are encouraged to deny the faith, remain silent in the face of injustice, or to participate in a wrongdoing, we must set ourselves against the sin, and accept the consequences. By doing this, we provide compelling testimony; we honor the Lord, and we enter into the ranks of the martyrs of the Faith.

The English word martyr is from a Greek word which means witness. the ultimate witness is to lose your life, to shed your blood, rather than to deny the faith. But such a response comes by God's grace, should it ever arise. preparing for it is accomplished by bearing witness to the Lord and His truths day by day.

2. Our responsorial psalm is an answer to those who would laugh in our faces. The wicked may rejoice in our persecution, but God will not be mocked. On the last day, it is the faithful who God shall raise up, and their foes shall know the bitterness of defeat. When our lives are lived in the Lord, we need fear no-one, because the Lord is with us.
3. In our Gospel reading, Zacchaeus, the tax collector, seeks Jesus. Tax collectors were among the most hated people in Israel, viewed as traitors by many. Not only did they collect revenues for the occupying Romans, but they were also allowed to overcharge and keep the difference for themselves.

So here is a man, among the greatest sinners and least respected, but when he seeks Jesus, the Son of God shows him favor.

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We are all like Zacchaeus. We are sinners, unworthy of attention. But if we sincerely seek Christ, it will not matter what we have done in the past. Christ will come and dwell with us.

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus more than he wanted to maintain his economic comfort. Jesus knew that. He had come to Jericho that day seeking to save the lost. He knew Zacchaeus like He knows each one of us. The "crowds" around Zacchaeus may have deemed him as unworthy of the encounter that was about to occur, but God did not see him this way. Jesus saw Zacchaeus' heart and he drew him to Himself.

Each one of us should find hope in this story because, literally or figuratively, we have compromised in our lives. Perhaps in our work, when we do not live the Christian faith in the environment of our chosen profession out of fear.

Perhaps in our family, when we fail to love our own spouse, children or grandchildren, in the way that we know we ought, sacrificially, forgetting that the family is the first church. Perhaps in our free time, when we engage in behavior that we know actually leads us into bondage and away from the freedom given to us in Jesus Christ.

The Good News is that no matter what has happened in our past, Jesus walks into the dusty streets of our own lives this very day. He comes for us. Let us learn some lessons from Zacchaeus about living our own lives in that Sycamore tree. From that place where we can best keep our eyes on Jesus Christ.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 19, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Wednesday, November 19th, 2025

### Reading 1, Second Maccabees 7:1, 20-31

1 It also happened that seven brothers were arrested with their mother. The king tried to force them to taste some pork, which the Law forbids, by torturing them with whips and scourges.

20 But the mother was especially admirable and worthy of honourable remembrance, for she watched the death of seven sons in the course of a single day, and bravely endured it because of her hopes in the Lord.

21 Indeed she encouraged each of them in their ancestral tongue; filled with noble conviction, she reinforced her womanly argument with manly courage, saying to them,

22 'I do not know how you appeared in my womb; it was not I who endowed you with breath and life, I had not the shaping of your every part.

23 And hence, the Creator of the world, who made everyone and ordained the origin of all things, will in his mercy give you back breath and life, since for the sake of his laws you have no concern for yourselves.'

24 Antiochus thought he was being ridiculed, suspecting insult in the tone of her voice; and as the youngest was still alive he appealed to him not with mere words but with promises on oath to make him both rich and happy if he would abandon the traditions of his ancestors; he would make him his Friend and entrust him with public office.

25 The young man took no notice at all, and so the king then appealed to the mother, urging her to advise the youth to save his life.

26 After a great deal of urging on his part she agreed to try persuasion on her son.

27 Bending over him, she fooled the cruel tyrant with these words, uttered in their ancestral tongue, 'My son, have pity on me; I carried you nine months in my womb and suckled you three years, fed you and reared you to the age you are now, and provided for you.

28 I implore you, my child, look at the earth and sky and everything in them, and consider how God made them out of what did not exist, and that human beings come into being in the same way.

29 Do not fear this executioner, but prove yourself worthy of your brothers and accept death, so that I may receive you back with them in the day of mercy.'

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30 She had hardly finished, when the young man said, 'What are you all waiting for? I will not comply with the king's ordinance; I obey the ordinance of the Law given to our ancestors through Moses.

31 As for you, who have contrived every kind of evil against the Hebrews, you will certainly not escape the hands of God.

## **Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15**

1 [Prayer Of David] Listen, Yahweh, to an upright cause, pay attention to my cry, lend an ear to my prayer, my lips free from deceit.

5 my steps never stray from the paths you lay down, from your tracks; so my feet never stumble.

6 I call upon you, God, for you answer me; turn your ear to me, hear what I say.

8 Guard me as the pupil of an eye, shelter me in the shadow of your wings

15 But I in my uprightness will see your face, and when I awake I shall be filled with the vision of you.

## **Gospel, Luke 19:11-28**

11 While the people were listening to this he went on to tell a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and they thought that the kingdom of God was going to show itself then and there.

12 Accordingly he said, 'A man of noble birth went to a distant country to be appointed king and then return.

13 He summoned ten of his servants and gave them ten pounds, telling them, "Trade with these, until I get back."

14 But his compatriots detested him and sent a delegation to follow him with this message, "We do not want this man to be our king."

15 'Now it happened that on his return, having received his appointment as king, he sent for those servants to whom he had given the money, to find out what profit each had made by trading.

16 The first came in, "Sir," he said, "your one pound has brought in ten."

17 He replied, "Well done, my good servant! Since you have proved yourself trustworthy in a very small thing, you shall have the government of ten cities."

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18 Then came the second, "Sir," he said, "your one pound has made five."

19 To this one also he said, "And you shall be in charge of five cities."

20 Next came the other, "Sir," he said, "here is your pound. I put it away safely wrapped up in a cloth

21 because I was afraid of you; for you are an exacting man: you gather in what you have not laid out and reap what you have not sown."

22 He said to him, "You wicked servant! Out of your own mouth I condemn you. So you knew that I was an exacting man, gathering in what I have not laid out and reaping what I have not sown?"

23 Then why did you not put my money in the bank? On my return I could have drawn it out with interest."

24 And he said to those standing by, "Take the pound from him and give it to the man who has ten pounds."

25 And they said to him, "But, sir, he has ten pounds . . ."

26 "I tell you, to everyone who has will be given more; but anyone who has not will be deprived even of what he has.

27 "As for my enemies who did not want me for their king, bring them here and execute them in my presence." '

28 When he had said this he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem



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## Questions for Reflection for November 19, 2025

1. Our first reading, from the Book of Second Maccabees, is heart-wrenching. It tells of a mother who must watch all seven of her sons be tortured and killed in one day, because of their faithfulness to the Lord. Yet, despite the unimaginable cruelty she and her sons endured, everyone remained faithful to the Lord. This is a testament to their upbringing, which their mother provided. As a reward, they all knew God would raise them up on the last day.

It is also a testimony to the holiness and heroism of faithful women who raise faithful sons. The family is God's plan. He called it forth from the beginning. It is the school of virtues and the place where children learn the way of holiness and heroism in the Lord.

As parents, we are called to recognize that God is the author of life. God grants life, and our lives belong to Him. We have a duty then, to raise our children to be servants of the Lord. We must instruct them and prepare them to endure any persecution for their faith. And we must help them to remain steadfast in the face of temptation.

2. Our responsorial psalm is a petition to God, to look with mercy upon the upright. It comes from the heart of David, a man who made lots of mistakes. A man who sinned greatly. But a man who loved God heroically and always repented and returned. God does not promise an easy life to the upright, but He does promise salvation. Let us place our trust in this promise, for God keeps His word. He will guard us as the pupil of His eye, as He did David. He will protect us under the shadow of His wings, as He did David. And when we awake, in the morning, or on the other side of death, we shall be filled with the vision of Him.
3. Today's Gospel from St. Luke recounts the parable of the stewards. A great man, who was to become a king, gave each of his stewards a measure of money. When he returned, he asked for an accounting.

Our place in this story is that of the stewards. God is our King, and He has given us talents and wealth to see how we shall use them. How do we use what the Lord has entrusted to us? Do we say to ourselves, "This is mine, and I shall spend it on myself alone?" Or do we ask, "How shall I invest this to serve the Lord?"

If we squander our talents on useless things, on vanity and the things of this world, we will be deprived when called to account, like the foolish servant. We will lose everything we have. But if we invest and return our talents, with profit to the Lord, we shall be given even more.

There is nothing wrong with possessing the goods of the earth, as long as we understand we are stewards, and these goods are entrusted to us for a time.

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We have a duty to use them wisely, to multiply them, for the greater glory of the Lord. In the twelfth chapter of Luke's Gospel, we read these words from Jesus "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more. (Luke 12: 39-48)

Today, we should ask ourselves two important questions. First - what has been entrusted to me? Then, a follow up question - what am I doing with it? Now canonized Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman penned a beautiful prayer often titled "I have a Mission". It is a reminder that no matter where we are in life, even in the midst of what may seem to be our deepest struggle; we are still called, chosen and equipped for His mission. We are the ones who have been given much. It has been entrusted to us. Now, much more is required.

Let me lead us in praying it:

Oh My God, you have created me do some definite service. You have committed some work to me that you have not committed to another. I have my mission; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. I will trust you, whatever, wherever I am. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve you. If I am in perplexity, my perplexity may serve you.

If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve you. You do nothing in vain. You know what you are about. Though friends be taken away, though I feel desolate, though my spirits sink, though my future is hidden from me, yet I will trust you, for you know what you are about. I ask not so much to see as to be used: through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 20, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Thursday, November 20th, 2025

### Reading 1, First Maccabees 2:15-29

15 If you need any of them, send someone to fetch them.

16 'Since we are about to celebrate the purification, we now write, requesting you to observe the same days.

17 God, who has saved his whole people, conferring heritage, kingdom, priesthood and sanctification on all of us,

18 as he has promised in the Law, will surely, as our hope is in him, be swift to show us mercy and gather us together from everywhere under heaven to the holy place, since he has rescued us from great evils and has purified it.'

19 The story of Judas Maccabaeus and his brothers, the purification of the great Temple, the dedication of the altar,

20 together with the wars against Antiochus Epiphanes and his son Eupator,

21 and the celestial manifestations that came to hearten the brave champions of Judaism, so that, few though they were, they pillaged the whole country, routed the barbarian hordes,

22 recovered the sanctuary renowned the whole world over, liberated the city and re-established the laws by then all but abolished, the Lord showing his favour by all his gracious help to them-

23 all this, already related in five books by Jason of Cyrene, we shall attempt to condense into a single work.

24 Considering the spate of figures and the difficulty encountered, because of the mass of material, by those who wish to immerse themselves in historical records,

25 we have aimed at providing diversion for those who merely want something to read, a saving of labour for those who enjoy committing things to memory, and profit for each and all.

26 For us who have undertaken the drudgery of this abridgement, it has been no easy task but a matter of sweat and midnight oil,

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27 comparable to the exacting task of someone organising a banquet, whose aim is to satisfy a variety of tastes. Nevertheless, for the sake of rendering a general service, we remain glad to endure this drudgery,

28 leaving accuracy of detail to the historian, and concentrating our effort on tracing the outlines in this condensed version.

29 Just as the architect of a new house is responsible for the construction as a whole, while the man undertaking the ceramic painting has to take into consideration only the decorative requirements, so, I think, it is with us.

## **Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 50:1-2, 5-6, 14-15**

1 [Psalm Of Asaph] The God of gods, Yahweh, is speaking, from east to west he summons the earth.

2 From Zion, perfection of beauty, he shines forth;

5 'Gather to me my faithful, who sealed my covenant by sacrifice.'

6 The heavens proclaim his saving justice, 'God himself is judge.

14 'Let thanksgiving be your sacrifice to God, fulfil the vows you make to the Most High;

15 then if you call to me in time of trouble I will rescue you and you will honour me.'

## **Gospel, Luke 9:41-44**

41 In reply Jesus said, 'Faithless and perverse generation! How much longer must I be among you and put up with you? Bring your son here.'

42 Even while the boy was coming, the devil threw him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and cured the boy and gave him back to his father,

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,

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.'

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## Questions for Reflection for November 20, 2025

1. Our first reading provides a brief overview of what the Book of Maccabees is about. It is an inspiring account of how the Lord's people, the Jewish people, the people of the Covenant, the Israelites stayed faithful to the Law, justly revolted against the injustice of foreign rule and reclaimed their religious freedom.

Israel was part of the lands conquered by Alexander the Great. When Alexander died in Babylon, his kingdom split into many parts. Israel was for a time ruled by the Greek Ptolemies of Egypt, and then by the much larger and more powerful Seleucid Empire. The king of this empire was Antiochus IV, who tried to force the Jews to become as Greeks.

In other words, this unjust ruler demanded the people of the true God to abandon the faith of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, abandon the Law of God, and bow to pagan "gods". He outlawed many of their religious traditions and killed those who refused to cooperate.

However, as the Book of Maccabees explains, God saved His people as He did many times before. The Temple, which had been converted into a temple for Zeus, was then purified and restored, and the Jewish people became free to openly worship the true God once again.

Religious persecution is not a new thing. Today, many Christians also face persecution. Christianity is outlawed in some parts of the world. But those who would oppose God, would do well to learn the story told in Maccabees, and take heed of its lessons. So too, faithful Christians should be inspired by the Maccabees and stay faithful to the Lord and the New Covenant, sealed in the blood of Jesus Christ.

2. Our responsorial psalm is a reminder, that those who are faithful to God are encouraged to call on Him in times of trouble. God will rescue His faithful from every danger. This does not mean we will escape every earthly trouble and care, but it means we will escape the danger of being cut off. God intervenes. He hears the prayers of the faithful. And He will save us on the last day. Let us join in the worship being offered to the Lord in heaven, while living for Him on earth.
3. Our Gospel continues the theme of persecution. After revealing Himself in the Glory of the Transfiguration, and demonstrating that, in Him, the Kingdom of God was breaking forth by delivering a young boy from demonic possession, Jesus explains to His disciples that He will be delivered up to men. He foretells his saving death. In the next verse we read that they did not understand.

Do we understand? So often, the Lord reminds us that we will be treated the way He was, because we belong to Him.

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Our call as His disciples is to follow Him. We should pray for the grace to accept whatever happens to us with faithfulness and humility. We should ask the Holy Spirit to be with us when we do face persecution, giving us the power to be living, vocal witnesses to the Lord - just as the martyrs did. Fortunately, few of us can expect to face the shedding of our blood in martyrdom. But, especially in an increasingly secularist age, hostile to the Gospel, we will face persecution.

And, we all face dangers in our daily lives. The dangers of temptations and pressures, which if not properly dealt with, lead to sin. Let us be resolved, with the help of grace, to face these bravely, with the same courage as Jesus and the Christian martyrs did. God is faithful and, we too will be rescued on the last day.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 21, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Friday, November 21st, 2025

### Reading 1, First Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59

36 Judas and his brothers then said, 'Now that our enemies have been defeated, let us go up to purify the sanctuary and dedicate it.'

37 So they marshalled the whole army, and went up to Mount Zion.

52 On the twenty-fifth of the ninth month, Chislev, in the year 148 they rose at dawn

53 and offered a lawful sacrifice on the new altar of burnt offering which they had made.

54 The altar was dedicated, to the sound of hymns, zithers, lyres and cymbals, at the same time of year and on the same day on which the gentiles had originally profaned it.

55 The whole people fell prostrate in adoration and then praised Heaven who had granted them success.

56 For eight days they celebrated the dedication of the altar, joyfully offering burnt offerings, communion and thanksgiving sacrifices.

57 They ornamented the front of the Temple with crowns and bosses of gold, renovated the gates and storerooms, providing the latter with doors.

58 There was no end to the rejoicing among the people, since the disgrace inflicted by the gentiles had been effaced.

59 Judas, with his brothers and the whole assembly of Israel, made it a law that the days of the dedication of the altar should be celebrated yearly at the proper season, for eight days beginning on the twenty-fifth of the month of Chislev, with rejoicing and gladness.

### Responsorial Psalm, First Chronicles 29:10, 11, 11-12, 12

10 Hence, in the presence of the whole assembly David blessed Yahweh. David said: 'May you be blessed, Yahweh, God of Israel our ancestor, for ever and for ever!

11 Yours, Yahweh, is the greatness, the power, the splendour, length of days and glory, everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours is the sovereignty, Yahweh; you are exalted, supreme over all.

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12 Wealth and riches come from you, you are ruler of all, in your hand lie strength and power, and you bestow greatness and might on whomsoever you please.

## **Gospel, Luke 19:45-48**

45 Then he went into the Temple and began driving out those who were busy trading, saying to them,

46 'According to scripture, my house shall be a house of prayer but you have turned it into a bandits' den.'

47 He taught in the Temple every day. The chief priests and the scribes, in company with the leading citizens, tried to do away with him,

48 but they could not find a way to carry this out because the whole people hung on his words.



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## Questions for Reflection for November 21, 2025

1. Our first reading, from the Book of Maccabees, tells how the Israelites purified and sanctified the temple, which they referred to as Mount Zion at that time. The Temple had been profaned, because, for a short time, was used by the Gentiles as a temple dedicated to Zeus, a pagan god. Now, it has been restored to its purpose as a temple of the true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. After resisting horrendous persecution, and remaining faithful, they knew they were to restore the temple.

Now, more than two thousand years later, we have each become temples, created anew through baptism, and strengthened through Communion and Confirmation, fed on the Word of God and the Body, Blood Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. We are dedicated to God. We have been purified and prepared for our everlasting Communion with the Lord. And, our church buildings, where the Sacrifice of the Mass takes place, are Holy Places. We must treat them as such. Where they have fallen into disrepair or lost their beauty, we must repair and restore them, for the True God.

2. In our responsorial psalm, we hear again that everything in heaven and on earth, is dedicated to Yahweh. God is the creator and the master of the universe, and of earth itself. All these things, when seen with wisdom, give glory to God. Let us be good stewards of the earth, and of ourselves, so that all we are, and all we do, gives glory to God.
3. In today's Gospel reading from the Gospel of St. Luke, we hear how Jesus drove the merchants from the Temple, and restored His Father's House to its rightful purpose, that is worship. That is the purpose of our Church buildings as well. They should be oriented, in their beauty and their design, to authentic worship of God at the altar.

The tabernacle, where Jesus resides in a special way, in the consecrated Eucharist, should have a central place. All of the vestments used by the clergy and the sacred vessels, should be beautiful, drawing us into the sacred mysteries. That is the purpose of Church buildings, worship. And, the highest form of worship is the Eucharistic Liturgy, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

We have a purpose as well. We are temples of the Holy Spirit. the Lord dwells within us. And, we all have a calling, a purpose in life. We can and should, by God's grace, discern that purpose, and then apply ourselves to living it, for, with and in the Lord. We have a duty to use what God gave us for His good. To abuse the goods of the Earth, or even to abuse our bodies, is an abuse of the gifts and the freedom God has provided.

Let us take time to pray, to discern our vocations, and to see all things with the eyes of wisdom. Let us use the goods of the earth, and our very lives, to serve God, to offer worship to Him, that is the purpose for which we are created.

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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 22, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Saturday, November 22nd, 2025

### Reading 1, First Maccabees 6:1-13

1 King Antiochus, meanwhile, was making his way through the Upper Provinces; he had heard that in Persia there was a city called Elymais, renowned for its riches, its silver and gold,

2 and its very wealthy temple containing golden armour, breastplates and weapons, left there by Alexander son of Philip, the king of Macedon, the first to reign over the Greeks.

3 He therefore went and attempted to take the city and pillage it, but without success, the citizens having been forewarned.

4 They resisted him by force of arms. He was routed, and began retreating, very gloomily, towards Babylon.

5 But, while he was still in Persia, news reached him that the armies which had invaded Judaea had been routed,

6 and that Lysias in particular had advanced in massive strength, only to be forced to turn and flee before the Jews; that the latter were now stronger than ever, thanks to the arms, supplies and abundant spoils acquired from the armies they had cut to pieces,

7 and that they had pulled down the abomination which he had erected on the altar in Jerusalem, had encircled the sanctuary with high walls as in the past, and had fortified Beth-Zur, one of his cities.

8 When the king heard this news he was amazed and profoundly shaken; he threw himself on his bed and fell sick with grief, since things had not turned out for him as he had planned.

9 And there he remained for many days, subject to deep and recurrent fits of melancholy, until he realised that he was dying.

10 Then, summoning all his Friends, he said to them, 'Sleep evades my eyes, and my heart is cowed by anxiety.

11 I have been wondering how I could have come to such a pitch of distress, so great a flood as that which now engulfs me -- I who was so generous and well-loved in my heyday.

12 But now I recall how wrongly I acted in Jerusalem when I seized all the vessels of silver and gold there and ordered the extermination of the inhabitants of Judah for no reason at all.

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13 This, I am convinced, is why these misfortunes have overtaken me, and why I am dying of melancholy in a foreign land.'

## **Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 9:2-3, 4, 6, 16, 19**

2 I rejoice and delight in you, I sing to your name, Most High.

3 My enemies are in retreat, they stumble and perish at your presence,

4 for you have given fair judgement in my favour, seated on your throne as upright judge.

6 the enemy is wiped out -- mere ruins for ever -- you have annihilated their cities, their memory has perished. See,

16 Yahweh has made himself known, given judgement, he has ensnared the wicked in the work of their own hands. Muted music

19 Arise, Yahweh; human strength shall not prevail. The nations shall stand trial before you.

## **Gospel, Luke 20:27-40**

27 Some Sadducees -- those who argue that there is no resurrection -- approached him and they put this question to him,

28 'Master, Moses prescribed for us, if a man's married brother dies childless, the man must marry the widow to raise up children for his brother.

29 Well then, there were seven brothers; the first, having married a wife, died childless.

30 The second

31 and then the third married the widow. And the same with all seven, they died leaving no children.

32 Finally the woman herself died.

33 Now, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be, since she had been married to all seven?'

34 Jesus replied, 'The children of this world take wives and husbands,

35 but those who are judged worthy of a place in the other world and in the resurrection from the dead do not marry

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36 because they can no longer die, for they are the same as the angels, and being children of the resurrection they are children of God.

37 And Moses himself implies that the dead rise again, in the passage about the bush where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.

38 Now he is God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to him everyone is alive.'

39 Some scribes then spoke up. They said, 'Well put, Master.'

40 They did not dare to ask him any more questions.



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## Questions for Reflection for November 22, 2025

1. In our reading from the First book of Maccabees, we learn of the reversal of fortunes that the evil King Antiochus has suffered. Now he is dying, and he realizes the how grave his sins against the God's people are. But any remorse he may have felt did not save him. Antiochus died and faced the consequences of his evil actions.

God is a god of justice. Those who do evil may escape justice for a time, but there is always a reckoning. This is one of the reasons why, as Christian believers, we must not concern ourselves with revenge, and why we are called to pray for our enemies. The evil they do will be punished, unless they repent. We should desire that all men and women repent and turn to the Lord for forgiveness.

Knowing this, we must seek to refrain from evil as well. And if we sin, if we violate God's Law, if we misuse our freedom and choose against the Lord's plan, we must not delay in seeking reconciliation. Fortunately, Catholic Christians have recourse as well, to the Sacrament of New Beginnings, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, also called Penance and Confession.

2. In our responsorial psalm, David celebrates the Lord's judgement. God still puts our enemies to retreat and ensnares the wicked in the works of their own hands. Let us rejoice that our Lord is just, and His judgement is perfect. Then, let us pray for our enemies, that they might turn away from sin and turn to the Lord.
3. In today's Gospel, some Sadducees have put a difficult question to Jesus, with the apparent aim of tricking Him. But they are actually presenting the Levirate Marriage practice of the Jewish world in the time of Jesus. (See, Book of Deuteronomy 25:5-10) But Jesus uses the question to teach the deeper truth concerning the purpose or "ends" of marriage. He explains there will be no marriage in heaven. Why? Because the purpose of marriage, the ends of marriage, will be completed and perfected.

The Married couple are called to a way of love that is both unitive and procreative. Though marriage is known to all cultures, in the Bible and the Christian tradition, it takes on a greater meaning. We learn that God is self-giving love, and that truth is meant to inform our understanding of marriage. We learn to give as integrated human persons, body, soul and spirit, most often in and through marriage. It is a holy calling. It is no accident that the imagery of marriage is used throughout the entire Old Testament as a metaphor for God's love for Israel (Hosea 2: 19,20). It is also elevated in Jesus Christ, to a Sacrament, a source of grace, a way of holiness, a classroom of love.



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In Jesus Christ, marriage is elevated to a mystery that reveals Christ's love for His Bride, the Church (Ephesians 5:32). And this mystery casts light back on "ordinary" marriage between man and woman. The word mystery is derived from the Greek word, *Mysterion*. That word is translated as sacrament in the western church. The Catholic and Orthodox Christian teaching is that Marriage is a Sacrament, a source of grace and a sign of Christ's love for His Bride, the Church.

From antiquity the Christian family has been called the domestic church for a good reason. It is the smallest cell of the Body of Christ, the church in miniature as some early fathers were fond of calling it. It is in the domestic church of the family where progress in Christian maturity takes place. It is a seedbed of holiness for the spouses, teaching them the path of selfless love. It is a school of virtues for the children and the first place of evangelization and catechesis in living as a Christian. In heaven, we will all be, in perfect communion, with the Lord, and in Him, with one another. Married Love will be fulfilled. We will all be, in a sense, married to the Lord. The Church is the Bride of Christ. The language of the Second coming in the last Book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation, speaks of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Jesus explains that in heaven, we will live in perfect communion with God.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 23, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Sunday, November 23rd, 2025

### Reading 1, Second Samuel 5:1-3

1 All the tribes of Israel then came to David at Hebron and said, 'Look, we are your own flesh and bone.

2 In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel on its campaigns, and to you it was that Yahweh promised, "You are to shepherd my people Israel and be leader of Israel." '

3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them in Yahweh's presence at Hebron, and they anointed David as king of Israel.

### 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!

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.

### Reading 2, Colossians 1:12-20

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.

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.

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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.

## **Gospel, Luke 23:35-43**

35 The people stayed there watching. As for the leaders, they jeered at him with the words, 'He saved others, let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.'

36 The soldiers mocked him too, coming up to him, offering him vinegar,

37 and saying, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.'

38 Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews'.

39 One of the criminals hanging there abused him: 'Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us as well.'

40 But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did,

41 but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong.'

42 Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'

43 He answered him, 'In truth I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.'

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## Questions for Reflection for November 23, 2025

1. Our first reading comes from the Second Book of Samuel and tells of the moment when the people of Israel accepted David as their king. The people recognized that David was chosen by God to lead them. His leadership as a man of faith, a public servant, and a military leader, was unrivalled. The people recognized he would be a good and wise king.

This is a lesson for us in this day. We too are called to use wisdom in recognizing our leaders. Whom do we follow? Do we follow leaders because they are popular or because they promise us great things, regardless of whether they can deliver? Or do we seek to follow leaders who follow God? Who seek justice for all, including the poor, the marginalized, and importantly, the unborn?

Let us pray to receive good and wise leaders, chosen for us by God.

2. Today's responsorial psalm was written by King David to celebrate both what Jerusalem was, and what Jerusalem would become under his descendants. It acknowledges that Jerusalem, where the Temple was located, would be a focal point for all Israel. Indeed, for the whole world.

Even today, this is true, but there is also a New Jerusalem to which we are all making a pilgrimage, a new city in heaven. In that city, God is enthroned. Let us rejoice that we are invited on this pilgrimage to the New Jerusalem, by living our lives for the Lord, in the heart of His Church. Let us walk on the Way with joy in our hearts.

3. In the second reading for Holy Mass the Apostle Paul, after greeting the Colossians, gives them - and us - an extraordinary teaching concerning who Jesus is. He is the Image of the unseen or invisible God and the firstborn of a new creation. WOW! The first creation came through the Word. Then, the Word became Flesh, and through Him, the New Creation has come and is coming.

He was the firstborn - and we follow in His trail. He began the new creation - and is making all things new. We are now sons and daughters in the Son. The Christian tradition speaks of this as a Divine filiation. Through His Passion, death and resurrection, Jesus makes all things new. We are saved in Him and through Him.

The Gospel reading, taken from St. Luke, presents us with the moving scene at the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ on Calvary. The Hill on which He voluntarily laid down His Life. This Word Made Flesh, the Savior sent to redeem us, Jesus the Christ, takes the penalty we all deserved, willingly laying His life down for all of us.

He was crucified between two thieves. One mocks Him, the other honors Him as Lord and asks Jesus to remember him when He comes into His Kingdom.

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Jesus promises that today he will be with Him in paradise. Beautiful. Notice how the choices of these two thieves had dramatically different results. To one, his wrong choice brought death and judgment. To the other, his correct choice brought Salvation and eternal life.

Sin fractures our freedom. We are saved by the death of Jesus Christ and given, by cooperating with grace, the power to enjoy the fruits of true freedom, the freedom to love and to choose the Lord and His Way. The freedom to follow God, and exercise reason, rather than to follow disordered passions and give ourselves over to the slavery of sin. His suffering is undeserved. Yet, through this suffering, and death, the guilty are saved - when they are repentant and accept His voluntary sacrifice.

And so, we have presented to us an incredible invitation and opportunity. Although we are sinners, Christ died for us. We are invited to accept His Sacrifice, repent of our sin, and invite Him to be our Savior and Lord. To choose to live for Him. To turn away from sin and turn toward the Lord. Then, to participate in God's saving plan for others. Finally, we are invited, like the good thief, and with the good thief, to be with Jesus in paradise.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 24, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Monday, November 24th, 2025

### Reading 1, Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched on Jerusalem and besieged it.

2 The Lord let Jehoiakim king of Judah fall into his power, as well as some of the vessels belonging to the Temple of God. These he took away to Shinar, putting the vessels into the treasury of his own gods.

3 From the Israelites, the king ordered Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring a certain number of boys of royal or noble descent;

4 they had to be without any physical defect, of good appearance, versed in every branch of wisdom, well-informed, discerning, suitable for service at the royal court. Ashpenaz was to teach them to speak and write the language of the Chaldeans.

5 The king assigned them a daily allowance of food and wine from the royal table. They were to receive an education lasting for three years, after which they would enter the royal service.

6 Among them were the Judeans Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

8 Daniel, who was determined not to incur pollution by food and wine from the royal table, begged the chief eunuch to spare him this defilement.

9 God allowed Daniel to receive faithful love and sympathy from the chief eunuch.

10 But the eunuch warned Daniel, 'I am afraid of my lord the king: he has assigned you food and drink, and if he sees you looking thinner in the face than the other boys of your age, my head will be in danger with the king because of you.'

11 To the guard assigned to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah by the chief eunuch, Daniel then said,

12 'Please allow your servants a ten days' trial, during which we are given only vegetables to eat and water to drink.

13 You can then compare our looks with those of the boys who eat the king's food; go by what you see, and treat your servants accordingly.'

14 The man agreed to do what they asked and put them on ten days' trial.



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15 When the ten days were over, they looked better and fatter than any of the boys who had eaten their allowance from the royal table;

16 so the guard withdrew their allowance of food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

17 To these four boys God gave knowledge and skill in every aspect of literature and learning; Daniel also had the gift of interpreting every kind of vision and dream.

18 When the time stipulated by the king for the boys to be presented to him came round, the chief eunuch presented them to Nebuchadnezzar.

19 The king conversed with them, and among all the boys found none to equal Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. So they became members of the king's court,

20 and on whatever point of wisdom or understanding he might question them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and soothsayers in his entire kingdom. Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

## **Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56**

52 May you be blessed, Lord, God of our ancestors, be praised and extolled for ever. Blessed be your glorious and holy name, praised and extolled for ever.

53 May you be blessed in the Temple of your sacred glory, exalted and glorified above all for ever:

54 blessed on the throne of your kingdom, exalted above all, glorified for ever:

55 blessed are you who fathom the abyss, enthroned on the winged creatures, praised and exalted above all for ever:

56 blessed in the expanse of the heavens, exalted and glorified for ever.

## **Gospel, Luke 21:1-4**

1 Looking up, he saw rich people putting their offerings into the treasury;

2 and he noticed a poverty-stricken widow putting in two small coins,

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3 and he said, 'I tell you truly, this poor widow has put in more than any of them;

4 for these have all put in money they could spare, but she in her poverty has put in all she had to live on.'



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## Questions for Reflection for November 24, 2025

1. Our first reading from the Book of Daniel tells how Daniel and others came into the service of the Chaldean king, Nebuchadnezzar. Once captive in the king's court, Daniel and his companions begged to be excused from eating unclean food. Instead of accepting the food and wine, which was surely a temptation, Daniel ate vegetables and drank only water, out of dedication to the Lord. The Lord honored them for their fidelity and gave them extraordinary gifts of wisdom. The Lord gave Daniel a prophetic gift, the ability to interpret visions and dreams. He also gave them the favor of the King. All of this was a part of a greater plan of the Lord.

As Christians, there's practically no food that is off limits, but that does not mean we should not be on our guard over what we put into our bodies and our minds. Today, we are offered a steady diet of drugs, alcohol, and other substances which can cause harm. Women are encouraged to consume contraceptives and abortifacients. Our minds are tempted with all kinds of unclean things, offered to us on television, on the internet, and even in public places.

We must cultivate wisdom and see these things as Daniel saw the food offered by Nebuchadnezzar. We must recognize what is unclean around us, and even when everyone else is consuming what is unclean, we must refrain. Finally, we should ask for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit so that we can be used by the Lord to further His plan in this hour. He will hear us.

2. Our responsorial psalm for today is not from the Book of Psalms, but from the Book of Daniel. And it is a simple hymn of continuous praise for God offered by the three Hebrew young men who were thrown into the fiery furnace by King Nebuchadnezzar. They were spared miraculously and used by the Lord to transform the entire plight of the Jewish people under the King. Praise is powerful! Let us take time today to give God thanks and praise. Let us extol His name forever. We serve the same God.
3. Our Gospel reading from the Gospel of St Luke tells the story of the Widow's mite. In this story, people are giving what they can spare to the Temple treasury. Next, we see one woman gives all she has, just two small coins.

What is important here is not the size of the gift, but the kind of giving that is taking place. Where we are tempted to give just a portion of what we have to the Lord, here is a woman giving all she has.

It is important to maintain a clear understanding of the goods of the earth, and the gifts of talents and riches bestowed upon us. Nothing we have is truly ours. We cannot take anything with us after we pass from this life, not even our most carefully cultivated talents.

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Everything we have belongs to the Lord. These gifts are entrusted to us as stewards, and we are to use them as God intends, which is to serve Him.

How many of us give to God merely our spare time, rather than making our whole day about Him? How many of us keep weeks, even months of time to ourselves, and give only the barest minimum back to God?

To be as the widow, we do not have to give everything to the Church or live in poverty. We need a change of heart, a conversion. We need to pray and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Let us use the gifts we have been given to lead faithful, dedicated lives of prayer and faith, reserving nothing for ourselves, but giving all, we are, and all we have, back to God. It all came from Him in the first place. It is all gifts.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 25, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Tuesday, November 25th, 2025

### Reading 1, Daniel 2:31-45

31 'You have had a vision, Your Majesty; this is what you saw: a statue, a great statue of extreme brightness, stood before you, terrible to see.

32 The head of this statue was of fine gold, its chest and arms were of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,

33 its legs of iron, its feet part iron, part clay.

34 While you were gazing, a stone broke away, untouched by any hand, and struck the statue, struck its feet of iron and clay and shattered them.

35 Then, iron and clay, bronze, silver and gold, all broke into pieces as fine as chaff on the threshing-floor in summer. The wind blew them away, leaving not a trace behind. And the stone that had struck the statue grew into a great mountain, filling the whole world.

36 This was the dream; we shall now explain to the king what it means.

37 'You, Your Majesty, king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given sovereignty, power, strength and honour-

38 human beings, wild animals, birds of the air, wherever they live, he has entrusted to your rule, making you king of them all -- you are the golden head.

39 And, after you, another kingdom will rise, not as great as yours, and then a third, of bronze, which will rule the whole world.

40 There will be a fourth kingdom, hard as iron, as iron that pulverises and crushes all. Like iron that breaks everything to pieces, it will crush and break all the earlier kingdoms.

41 The feet you saw, part earthenware, part iron, are a kingdom which will be split in two, but which will retain something of the strength of iron, just as you saw the iron and the clay of the earthenware mixed together.

42 The feet were part iron, part potter's clay: the kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle.

43 And just as you saw the iron and the clay of the earthenware mixed together, so the two will be mixed together in human seed; but they will not hold together any more than iron will blend with clay.

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44 In the days of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and this kingdom will not pass into the hands of another race: it will shatter and absorb all the previous kingdoms and itself last for ever-

45 just as you saw a stone, untouched by hand, break away from the mountain and reduce iron, bronze, earthenware, silver and gold to powder. The Great God has shown the king what is to take place. The dream is true, the interpretation exact.'

## **Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61**

57 Bless the Lord, all the Lord's creation: praise and glorify him for ever!

58 Bless the Lord, angels of the Lord, praise and glorify him for ever!

59 Bless the Lord, heavens, praise and glorify him for ever!

60 Bless the Lord, all the waters above the heavens, praise and glorify him for ever!

61 Bless the Lord, powers of the Lord, praise and glorify him for ever!

## **Gospel, Luke 21:5-11**

5 When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, he said,

6 'All these things you are staring at now -- the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another; everything will be destroyed.'

7 And they put to him this question, 'Master,' they said, 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that it is about to take place?'

8 But he said, 'Take care not to be deceived, because many will come using my name and saying, "I am the one" and "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them.

9 And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be terrified, for this is something that must happen first, but the end will not come at once.'

10 Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

11 There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines in various places; there will be terrifying events and great signs from heaven.

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## Questions for Reflection for November 25, 2025

1. Our first reading is from the Book of Daniel. We heard how Daniel interpreted to the King Nebuchadnezzar the content of his dream, and then credibly explained the meaning of the dream. The King had first asked all of the wise man and purported prophets in his own court, but none could interpret it. So, he asked this young Hebrew man. Daniel had no idea of knowing what would come of Nebuchadnezzar's empire after his death, but he faithfully shared the interpretation given to him by God. We now know that Daniel was correct.

Following the death of Nebuchadnezzar, Persia would take control of Babylon, followed by Alexander and the Greeks, then the Romans. Eventually however, God's kingdom would be established, to never be destroyed. What happened afterward? The King told Daniel "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery." He gave Daniel a special place in the government, and his three friends, the ones who had been thrown into the furnace, at Daniels request, the King appointed them to rule over the province of Babylon.

When we remain faithful to the Lord. When we ask for His Holy Spirit to guide us. Things begin to change. Daniel and his companions approached their captivity with living faith. We need to cultivate the same kind of living faith.

2. Our Responsorial psalm is a call to bless the Lord, to praise and glorify Him, from the Book of Daniel. This is our work, to pray without ceasing, to praise and glorify God, even when we are going through the "fires", the difficult times in life. When we extol God and His goodness, we are reminded of the hope we have in the life to come, and we experience the grace of God, empowering us to overcome.
3. Our reading from the Gospel of Luke is one that is often quoted, but not well understood. There are some who see the wars and disasters around us and insist the end times are near. And indeed, they could be. But Our Lord makes clear, nobody will know the precise time of the end. When we fearfully focus on the end times, we too often lose hope and faith turns to fear.

Instead, we must focus on the fact that our own end could come at any moment, and we should not wait for signs in the heavens to commit our lives to God. Instead, we must make the commitment to follow Jesus Christ every day, for we do not know the day or the hour when we will be called to give a reckoning for how we have lived our lives.

Last Sunday was the last Sunday of the Church year. The Feast of Christ the King. This is the last week of the Liturgical year. But this coming Sunday begins a New Year, the first Sunday of Advent is soon upon us. Every end is a beginning. In the life of a Christian believer, we need fear no end. Instead, we should always be fixing our eyes on Jesus Christ, the beginning and the end, and live by faith in Him.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 26, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Wednesday, November 26th, 2025

### Reading 1, Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28

1 King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for his noblemen, a thousand of them, and, in the presence of this thousand, he drank his wine.

2 Having tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave orders for the gold and silver vessels to be brought which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the sanctuary in Jerusalem, so that the king, his noblemen, his wives and the women who sang for him could drink out of them.

3 The gold and silver vessels taken from the sanctuary of the Temple of God in Jerusalem were brought in, and the king, his noblemen, his wives and the women who sang for him drank out of them.

4 They drank their wine and praised their idols of gold and silver, of bronze and iron, of wood and stone.

5 Suddenly, the fingers of a human hand appeared and began to write on the plaster of the palace wall, directly behind the lamp-stand; and the king could see the hand as it wrote.

6 The king turned pale with alarm: his hip-joints went slack and his knees began to knock.

13 Daniel was brought into the king's presence; the king said to Daniel, 'Are you the Daniel who was one of the Judaeans brought by my father the king from Judah?

14 I am told that the spirit of the gods lives in you, and that you are known for your perception, intelligence and marvellous wisdom.

16 I am told that you are able to give interpretations and to unravel difficult problems, so if you can read the writing and tell me what it means, you shall be dressed in purple, and have a chain of gold put round your neck, and be one of the three men who govern the kingdom.'

17 Then Daniel spoke up in the presence of the king. 'Keep your gifts for yourself,' he said, 'and give your rewards to others! I can certainly read the writing to the king and tell him what it means.

23 You have defied the Lord of heaven, you have had the vessels from his Temple brought to you, and you, your noblemen, your wives and the women singing for you have drunk your wine out of them. You have praised gods of gold and silver, of bronze and iron, of wood and stone, which can neither see, hear nor understand; but you have given no glory to the God in whose hands are your breath itself and all your fortunes.

24 That is why he has sent the hand which has written these words.

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25 The writing reads: mene, mene, teqel and parsin.

26 The meaning of the words is this: mene: God has measured your sovereignty and put an end to it;

27 teqel: you have been weighed in the balance and found wanting;

28 parsin: your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and the Persians.'

## **Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67**

62 Bless the Lord, sun and moon, praise and glorify him for ever!

63 Bless the Lord, stars of heaven, praise and glorify him for ever!

64 Bless the Lord, all rain and dew, praise and glorify him for ever!

65 Bless the Lord, every wind, praise and glorify him for ever!

66 Bless the Lord, fire and heat, praise and glorify him for ever!

67 Bless the Lord, cold and warmth, praise and glorify him for ever!

## **Gospel, Luke 21:12-19**

12 'But before all this happens, you will be seized and persecuted; you will be handed over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and brought before kings and governors for the sake of my name

13 -and that will be your opportunity to bear witness.

14 Make up your minds not to prepare your defence,

15 because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict.

16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death.

17 You will be hated universally on account of my name,

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18 but not a hair of your head will be lost.

19 Your perseverance will win you your lives.



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## Questions for Reflection for November 26, 2025

1. Today's first reading is from the prophetic Book of Daniel. It tells how King Belshazzar defiled the consecrated gold and silver drinking vessels stolen by Nebuchadnezzar from the Lord's Temple in Jerusalem. There are consequences for profaning the holy vessels set aside for the True God. Belshazzar's days as a king were numbered. Daniel, with his prophetic gift, correctly interpreted these signs.

Indeed, King Belshazzar died that very night, and Darius of the Medes took control of Babylon without a fight. This was the end of Nebuchadnezzar's former empire.

The things of this world are transitory. Whether it is a post held in high esteem, or gifts bestowed upon us, nothing of this world lasts long. And when some make plans that are contrary to God's will, indeed when they profane holy things and turn to idolatry and sin, their undoing can come in a single night.

This is why it is foolish to hold the things of this world in greater esteem than God. It becomes a form of idolatry in and of itself. We must be humble, as Daniel was, given over to the Will of God, not seeking power or riches for ourselves, but choosing to serve the Lord faithfully. For there is no greater reward than serving the Lord in this life and eternal life with God.

2. Our responsorial today is also taken from the Book of Daniel. We are reminded that all the goods and gifts of the earth come from God. The stars and the rain, the warmth of fire, and the coolness of the evening, are all gifts from God. God is the greatest of all Givers. Our response to His gifts should be the gift of our whole self, in return, to Him. Let us rejoice that He has provided us with so many natural gifts, so that we who believe in Him can see Him in creation and praise Him.

But, as Christians, we know that He has given us so much more. He has given us His only Son, Jesus Christ, in whom, as the Apostle Paul would write to the Corinthians many centuries later, all the promises of God find their YES.

3. Our Gospel from St. Luke is a sobering reminder that as Christians, we will face persecution. It is one of the promises of the Bible.

Christian persecution is on the rise around the world, in fact more Christians are persecuted today than ever faced trials during the time of the Roman Empire. Jesus Christ warned us to expect persecution, and He also told us how to respond.

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When we are persecuted, we may worry about what to say. What words can we offer our peers, persecutors to convert their hearts? We need not worry about what to say, for the Holy Spirit will speak for, in and through us. Whether it is by giving us the words at the moment of trial, or helping us remain steadfast, our witness will reveal to those who harm us that our God is the One, True and Living God.

This is an age of martyrdom. In some places, our brothers and sisters are literally shedding their blood for the faith. In others, there is a growing white martyrdom, where those who bear the name Christian are suffering under a soft persecution, a growing discrimination which seeks to squeeze them out of the public square and compel them to bend the knee to a new Caesar.

No matter how difficult it may become, we need not be afraid. We were born into these times, and we are born again for these times. In fact, the Lord is giving us all we need to be his witnesses during these times. We should not be surprised that they are treating us the way they treated him.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 27, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Thursday, November 27th, 2025

### Reading 1, Daniel 6:12-28

12 These men came along in a body and found Daniel praying and pleading with God.

13 They then went to the king and reminded him of the royal edict, 'Have you not signed an edict forbidding anyone for the next thirty days to pray to anyone, divine or human, other than to yourself, Your Majesty, on pain of being thrown into the lions' den?' 'The decision stands' the king replied, 'as befits the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked.'

14 They then said to the king, 'Your Majesty, this man Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, disregards both you and the edict which you have signed: he is at his prayers three times each day.'

15 When the king heard these words he was deeply distressed and determined to save Daniel; he racked his brains until sunset to find some way to save him.

16 But the men kept pressing the king, 'Your Majesty, remember that in conformity with the law of the Medes and the Persians, no edict or decree can be altered when once issued by the king.'

17 The king then ordered Daniel to be brought and thrown into the lion pit. The king said to Daniel, 'Your God, whom you have served so faithfully, will have to save you.'

18 A stone was then brought and laid over the mouth of the pit; and the king sealed it with his own signet and with that of his noblemen, so that there could be no going back on the original decision about Daniel.

19 The king returned to his palace, spent the night in fasting and refused to receive any of his concubines. Sleep eluded him,

20 and at the first sign of dawn he got up and hurried to the lion pit.

21 As he approached the pit he called in anguished tones to Daniel, 'Daniel, servant of the living God! Has your God, whom you serve so faithfully, been able to save you from the lions?'

22 Daniel answered the king, 'May Your Majesty live for ever!

23 My God sent his angel who sealed the lions' jaws; they did me no harm, since in his sight I am blameless; neither have I ever done you any wrong, Your Majesty.'



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24 The king was overjoyed and ordered Daniel to be released from the pit. Daniel was released from the pit and found to be quite unhurt, because he had trusted in his God.

25 The king then sent for the men who had accused Daniel and had them thrown into the lion pit, and their wives and children too; and before they reached the floor of the pit the lions had seized them and crushed their bones to pieces.

26 King Darius then wrote to all nations, peoples and languages dwelling throughout the world: 'May you prosper more and more!

27 This is my decree: Throughout every dominion of my realm, let all tremble with fear before the God of Daniel: He is the living God, he endures for ever, his kingdom will never be destroyed and his empire never come to an end.

28 He saves, sets free, and works signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth; he has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.'

## **Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74**

68 Bless the Lord, dew and snow-storm, praise and glorify him for ever!

69 Bless the Lord, frost and cold, praise and glorify him for ever!

70 Bless the Lord, ice and snow, praise and glorify him for ever!

71 Bless the Lord, nights and days, praise and glorify him for ever!

72 Bless the Lord, light and darkness, praise and glorify him for ever!

73 Bless the Lord, lightning and cloud, praise and glorify him for ever!

74 Let the earth bless the Lord: praise and glorify him for ever!

## **Gospel, Luke 21:20-28**

20 'When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then you must realise that it will soon be laid desolate.

21 Then those in Judaea must escape to the mountains, those inside the city must leave it, and those in country districts must not take refuge in it.

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22 For this is the time of retribution when all that scripture says must be fulfilled.

23 Alas for those with child, or with babies at the breast, when those days come!

24 'For great misery will descend on the land and retribution on this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive to every gentile country; and Jerusalem will be trampled down by the gentiles until their time is complete.

25 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the turmoil of the ocean and its waves;

26 men fainting away with terror and fear at what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken.

27 And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

28 When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'



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## Questions for Reflection for November 27, 2025

1. In today's first reading from the Book of Daniel, we find the Persian King Darius has made an ill-advised edict. He has decreed the death penalty for anyone who prays to a god besides him. Daniel's enemies seized upon this opportunity to destroy him. They accused him of praying to the God of Israel, and demanded the king put him to death.

Seeing no way to avoid the dilemma, due to an edict which he had issued, King Darius ordered Daniel into the lion's den. But the True God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, protected Daniel, and the next morning he was released, unharmed. Meanwhile, the treacherous subordinates were thrown in themselves, to become victims of their own devices.

As Christians, we should always remember, the Lord is with us. We need to not seek out ways to clash with our enemies. God protects the faithful, and we are called instead to pray and concentrate on our own fidelity to the Lord and living our vocation. The Bible and Christian history is filled with examples of people who seek to destroy God's faithful, and only end up destroying themselves.

There is a better way to resist evil, and a way to engage in spiritual warfare. Through Prayer and fasting. And, we must be careful, for when we become treacherous ourselves, we give strength and legitimacy to those who are doing evil against us. And we risk getting caught in our own snares.

Let us rely on the Lord to protect us. Let us be willing to suffer ridicule, persecution and even becoming outcasts to serve the True God. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is our God, and He is with us. Those who seek to do us harm, will only find it is themselves they have doomed. Let us pray that they will find the true God, as King Darius did, and choose to follow Him on the path to salvation, true freedom and human flourishing.

2. Our responsorial psalm, taken from the Book of Daniel, praises some of the things we rarely praise. Snowstorms, cold, and darkness, among other things. But these things are worthy of praise, for they have their purpose in creation. The dark brings night, during which we rest. The cold brings rain and snow, which provides us with the water we need. All these things have a season and a purpose, and they sustain us.

Let us give thanks to God for all He has given us. Everything works according to His design!

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3. Today's Gospel tells us that Jesus, during his earthly ministry, warned of a day when Jerusalem would be surrounded by enemies. Indeed, not long after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Romans laid siege to Jerusalem. All the Jewish people within the city were murdered or expelled, and none lived within its walls for a long time afterward.

And yet, the city is today the capital of the Jewish state of Israel. It is being restored, even in the sight of its enemies. This prophetic utterance of the Lord has come to pass. But the words of Jesus also speak of a future promise.

We can draw a parallel between the history of Jerusalem and what is to come for us, in the Church. The Church is the New Israel, as well as a seed and sign of the Kingdom of God which is to come. The New Jerusalem will, after the return of Jesus Christ, come down from heaven.

In the last Book of the New Testament of the Bible, the Book of Revelation, we read these words written by the beloved disciple John:

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a great voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.'"

"And he who sat upon the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'" Also, he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

The One who sat on the throne is Jesus Christ, the King of Kings. He will reign over this new heaven and new earth. So, how then are we to live as we follow Him? What the New Testament calls "this world", the system which rejects God, with all its errors and vices, will be judged and pass away. We must not flee to it, but rather away from it! And we must ask the Lord for the grace we need to endure whatever trials we face by remaining steadfast and obedient. And at the end of times, we will be raised, the Lord will come to reign and the new heaven and new earth will last forever.

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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 28, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Friday, November 28th, 2025

### Reading 1, Daniel 7:2-14

2 Daniel said, 'I have been seeing visions in the night. I saw that the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea;

3 four great beasts emerged from the sea, each different from the others.

4 The first was like a lion with eagle's wings and, as I looked, its wings were torn off, and it was lifted off the ground and set standing on its feet like a human; and it was given a human heart.

5 And there before me was a second beast, like a bear, rearing up on one side, with three ribs in its mouth, between its teeth. "Up!" came the command. "Eat quantities of flesh!"

6 After this I looked; and there before me was another beast, like a leopard, and with four bird's wings on its flanks; it had four heads and was granted authority.

7 Next, in the visions of the night, I saw another vision: there before me was a fourth beast, fearful, terrifying, very strong; it had great iron teeth, and it ate its victims, crushed them, and trampled their remains underfoot. It was different from the previous beasts and had ten horns.

8 'While I was looking at these horns, I saw another horn sprouting among them, a little one; three of the original horns were pulled out by the roots to make way for it; and in this horn I saw eyes like human eyes, and a mouth full of boasting.

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.

11 'I went on watching: then, because of the noise made by the boastings of the horn, as I watched, the beast was put to death, and its body destroyed and committed to the flames.

12 The other beasts were deprived of their empire, but received a lease of life for a season and a time.

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.

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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, Daniel 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81**

75 Bless the Lord, mountains and hills, praise and glorify him for ever!

76 Bless the Lord, every plant that grows, praise and glorify him for ever!

77 Bless the Lord, springs of water, praise and glorify him for ever!

78 Bless the Lord, seas and rivers, praise and glorify him for ever!

79 Bless the Lord, whales, and everything that moves in the waters, praise and glorify him for ever!

80 Bless the Lord, every kind of bird, praise and glorify him for ever!

81 Bless the Lord, all animals wild and tame, praise and glorify him for ever!

## **Gospel, Luke 21:29-33**

29 And he told them a parable, 'Look at the fig tree and indeed every tree.

30 As soon as you see them bud, you can see for yourselves that summer is now near.

31 So with you when you see these things happening: know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 In truth I tell you, before this generation has passed away all will have taken place.

33 Sky and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

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## Questions for Reflection for November 28, 2025

1. In our reading from the Book of Daniel, we hear of a terrible, prophetic vision given to Daniel, of four creatures, each one emerging from the sea and doing terrible things. The Book of Daniel was written in a genre quite familiar to the Jewish people after the exile, called apocalyptic literature. It is also a part of the New Testament and is best represented in the last book of the New Testament, the Book of Revelation.

The symbols speak to deeper meanings. Up to the end of Chapter Six, Daniel had been interpreting the dreams of King Nebuchadnezzar. Now, he is being given the interpretation of his own visions and dreams by an angel, a heavenly messenger.

According to some, these beasts represent the various empires which would conquer Israel and bring harm to the people.

But the vision is not one of despair. Instead, a savior, a Messiah is promised. When He comes, the beasts are destroyed. The savior then reigns over all people, and his kingdom is without end. This is, of course, for Christians, is a vision of Jesus Christ.

Indeed, Daniel's vision came to pass. The Chaldean, Persian, Greek and Roman empires all brought torment to Israel, but Jesus Christ has come, and His kingdom has no end. One of the principles we as Catholic Christians use in interpreting the Hebrew Scriptures, what we call the Old Testament, is to see seeds of the New Testament within it.

And, as Christians, we see the New Testament as the fulfillment of all of the prophetic words and promises of the New. We know the Messiah promised to Daniel and the People of Israel has come. And, he is coming, and He will come again. His name is Jesus Christ, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

2. In our responsorial psalm, we hear a simple litany of praises from Daniel. God's handiwork is visible all around us. It is right for us to praise God for the wonder of His creation. Daniel is a great example for us to imitate, He sang this prayer of praise in the midst of distress. Praise is a powerful weapon and brings great glory to God.
3. In our Gospel reading for today, Jesus explains that the many signs He predicted would be seen in the span of a single lifetime. The entire chapter is an instruction to the disciples, preparing them for His passion and death, and the destruction of Jerusalem. But assuring them that He would be victorious.

He was raised from the Dead! And we are to look always for His Return to establish His Kingdom. On one level, this is precisely what happened.



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The Romans sacked Jerusalem in 70 AD and great persecutions of the Christians began. Yet, the Christian Church was not wiped away. Instead, it grew stronger and stronger.

The Church is the Body of Christ, and He is its Head. He Himself is the New Temple. The Lord's words have reached us, unchanged from the moment He spoke to them. And even in the future, when the world we know is no more, His words will remain, still unchanged. They reveal Him as the living Word. And until He returns, He continues His mission through His Body, the Church, of which we are members. His words abide. They point us to Him, the Living Word. He is now at the Right Hand of His Father, interceding for us as well.

Remember this, the written words of the Bible reveal the Living Word. Jesus IS the Living Word.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 29, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Saturday, November 29th, 2025

### Reading 1, Daniel 7:15-27

15 'I, Daniel, was deeply disturbed and the visions that passed through my head alarmed me.

16 So I approached one of those who were standing by and asked him about all this. And in reply he revealed to me what these things meant.

17 "These four great beasts are four kings who will rise up from the earth.

18 Those who receive royal power are the holy ones of the Most High, and kingship will be theirs for ever, for ever and ever."

19 Then I asked about the fourth beast, different from all the rest, very terrifying, with iron teeth and bronze claws; it ate its victims, crushed them, and trampled their remains underfoot;

20 and about the ten horns on its head -- and why the other horn sprouted and the three original horns fell, and why this horn had eyes and a mouth full of boasting, and why it looked more impressive than its fellows.

21 This was the horn I had watched making war on the holy ones and proving the stronger,

22 until the coming of the One most venerable who gave judgement in favour of the holy ones of the Most High, when the time came for the holy ones to assume kingship.

23 This is what he said: "The fourth beast is to be a fourth kingdom on earth, different from all other kingdoms. It will devour the whole world, trample it underfoot and crush it.

24 As for the ten horns: from this kingdom will rise ten kings, and another after them; this one will be different from the previous ones and will bring down three kings;

25 he will insult the Most High, and torment the holy ones of the Most High. He will plan to alter the seasons and the Law, and the Saints will be handed over to him for a time, two times, and half a time.

26 But the court will sit, and he will be stripped of his royal authority which will be finally destroyed and reduced to nothing.

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27 And kingship and rule and the splendours of all the kingdoms under heaven will be given to the people of the holy ones of the Most High, whose royal power is an eternal power, whom every empire will serve and obey."

## **Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87**

82 Bless the Lord, all the human race: praise and glorify him for ever!

83 Bless the Lord, O Israel, praise and glorify him for ever!

84 Bless the Lord, priests, praise and glorify him for ever!

85 Bless the Lord, his servants, praise and glorify him for ever!

86 Bless the Lord, spirits and souls of the upright, praise and glorify him for ever!

87 Bless the Lord, faithful, humble-hearted people, praise and glorify him for ever!

## **Gospel, Luke 21:34-36**

34 'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened by debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will come upon you unexpectedly,

35 like a trap. For it will come down on all those living on the face of the earth.

36 Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to hold your ground before the Son of man.'

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## Questions for Reflection for November 29, 2025

1. This is the last day of Ordinary time in the liturgical Church year. This past Sunday, the 34th Sunday in Ordinary time, we celebrated the Feast of Christ the King. Tomorrow we will celebrate the first Sunday of Advent.

In our first reading from the Book of Daniel, we heard of the frightening vision given to the Prophet Daniel concerning the empires to come. Yet, notice the final part..."kingship and rule and the splendors of all the kingdoms under heaven will be given to the people of the holy ones of the Most High, whose royal power is an eternal power, whom every empire will serve and obey."

On this last day of the Church year, we are encouraged to remember that time is a creature. We need not be afraid of it, no matter how difficult things may become. The eternal God always wins. And His Kingship will last forever. Knowing that, we can, we should not fear the future, but receive it as a gift.

2. Our Responsorial Psalm is also taken from the Book of Daniel. It gives us the perspective from which we should approach time, even when things are difficult "Bless the Lord, faithful, humble-hearted people, praise and glorify him for ever!"

When we practice praise, when we choose to regularly turn our hearts to God in prayer, we are lifted out of fear and set free by faith.

3. The Gospel is short but important. We are to stay awake. The Lord is always coming. We must accept each day as a gift, a call to begin again. For those who believe in Jesus Christ, time is not meant to be a tyrant but a teacher, instructing us and presenting us with opportunity.

Rather than an enemy, time is to become a friend. Its' role and reach is a part of the redemptive loving plan of a timeless God who, in His Son, came into time in order to transform it from within. He now gives us time as a gift and intends it to become a field of choice and a path to holiness.

Through time, the Lord offers us the privilege of discovering His plan for our own personal pilgrimage. Through time, He invites us to participate in His plan, through His Son Jesus, to redeem all who will call upon Him. Time is the road along which this loving plan of redemption proceeds. We who have been baptized into Christ are now invited to co-operate in this Divine Plan. To receive and use time as a gift.

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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

November 30, 2025



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## Daily Reading for Sunday, November 30th, 2025

### Reading 1, Isaiah 2:1-5

1 The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 It will happen in the final days that the mountain of Yahweh's house will rise higher than the mountains and tower above the heights. Then all the nations will stream to it,

3 many peoples will come to it and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, to the house of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths.' For the Law will issue from Zion and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem.

4 Then he will judge between the nations and arbitrate between many peoples. They will hammer their swords into ploughshares and their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, no longer will they learn how to make war.

5 House of Jacob, come, let us walk in Yahweh's light.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

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!

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.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, prosperity for your homes!

7 Peace within your walls, prosperity in your palaces!

8 For love of my brothers and my friends I will say, 'Peace upon you!'

9 For love of the house of Yahweh our God I will pray for your well-being.

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## Reading 2, Romans 13:11-14

11 Besides, you know the time has come; the moment is here for you to stop sleeping and wake up, because by now our salvation is nearer than when we first began to believe.

12 The night is nearly over, daylight is on the way; so let us throw off everything that belongs to the darkness and equip ourselves for the light.

13 Let us live decently, as in the light of day; with no orgies or drunkenness, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy.

14 Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ, and stop worrying about how your disordered natural inclinations may be fulfilled.

## Gospel, Matthew 24:37-44

37 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of man comes.

38 For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark,

39 and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept them all away. This is what it will be like when the Son of man comes.

40 Then of two men in the fields, one is taken, one left;

41 of two women grinding at the mill, one is taken, one left.

42 'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming.

43 You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house.

44 Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.



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## Questions for Reflection for November 30, 2025

1. Our first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah is a vision of the future. Isaiah is a Messianic Prophet in the Hebrew Scriptures, what Christians call the Old Testament. And today is the first Sunday of Advent. The word Advent is derived from the Latin words, ad-venio or adventus, which signify reaching out and preparing for an arrival, a coming. So, we will focus on the coming(s) of the Messiah.

This particular passage from the Prophet Isaiah tells of a time when all nations will be at peace and will stream to Mount Zion. In other words, they will find authentic peace by returning to God. By turning away from sin and rebellion and turning toward the Lord. The nations will all recognize God as sovereign. This seems like a distant vision, but we still must do our part to make it true. By walking in the light of Yahweh, by recognizing Him as our Lord, and keeping His ways, we bring this vision one step closer to reality. Peace in the world begins with us.

2. Our responsorial psalm continues the theme established in our first reading. It recognizes that God's city of Jerusalem is the dwelling place of the Lord, and therefore the place of authentic peace. All the people of all the tribes are called to come to pray and give thanks. There will they find authentic justice and reconciliation. This is true for us as well. The Church is the New Jerusalem, the place where we find a special dwelling place of the Most High. The place where we find Jesus Christ, the One who brings peace, truly present, in the Blessed Sacrament. There to adore and praise and seek in the tabernacle.
3. Both our second reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans and our reading from the Gospel of Saint Matthew speak of the end times. They are warnings that we do not know when our time will come, so we must always be prepared. And we must live differently.

While we look forward to the coming of Jesus Christ in His glorious return, Advent is a time when we focus on preparing for Christmas, His first coming, and recognizing that He is always coming, to those who watch for Him. It is also possible that we could be called home at any moment. Even this very night, we could be called. Understanding this, we should be as prepared as a traveler waiting for a train or a flight. We should have our bags checked and be in line to board.

Paul explains how we are to prepare. We are to live decently, avoiding vice and disordered inclinations. We must throw off everything that belongs to darkness, including sin, and all our vices. We must equip ourselves for light, through prayer and contemplation, and through the Sacraments.

If we do as Paul instructs, then we need not fear the moment when Jesus arrives, for it will come as a welcome surprise.