

Sunday Readings

11th October 2026

Collect

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,
at all times go before us and follow after
and make us always determined
to carry out good works.

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

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 25:6-10

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for
all peoples

a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well
refined.

And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

He will swallow up death for ever;
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all
faces,

and the reproach of his people he will take away
from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day,
'Behold, this is our God;
we have waited for him, that he might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.'
For the hand of the LORD will rest on this
mountain.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22. R/. v.6

**R/. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for
ever and ever.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R/.**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R/.**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R/.**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul
to the Philippians

4:12-14. 19-20.

Brothers and Sisters: I know how to be brought low,
and I know how to abound. In any and every
circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing
plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all
things through him who strengthens me. Yet it was
kind of you to share my trouble. And my God will
supply every need of yours according to his riches in
glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
enlighten the eyes of our hearts,
so that we may know the hope to which he has
called us.

Alleluia

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus again spoke to the chief priests
and the elders of the people, in parables, saying, 'The
kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who
gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants
to call those who were invited to the wedding feast,
but they would not come. Again he sent other servants,
saying, "Tell those who are invited, "See, I have
prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have
been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to
the wedding feast.'" But they paid no attention and
went off, one to his farm, another to his business,
while the rest seized his servants, treated them
shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and
he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and
burned their city. Then he said to his servants, "The
wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not
worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to
the wedding feast as many as you find." And those
servants went out into the roads and gathered all
whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding
hall was filled with guests.

'But when the king came in to look at the guests, he
saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And
he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here
without a wedding garment?" And he was speechless.
Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand
and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that
place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
For many are called, but few are chosen.'

The Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year A

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

The challenge last week was accepting God's call. This week, the challenge is to keep free of all entanglements so that we are free to come to the feast whenever the Lord calls us. It seems strange that the people in the Gospel do not come to the feast, but they do not recognize what it is that they are turning down. This can happen also to us, so we need to be alert. So often in the Gospels, Jesus admonishes us to be alert, to be on the lookout, to keep vigil - because the Kingdom can come at any time.

The first reading today, from the Prophet Isaiah, talks about how God Himself will prepare a banquet for us. The imagery is wonderful! God will wipe away all tears! This is surely a sign that those who are invited are those who are suffering. The suffering that counts in this life is the suffering that is inevitable as we try to love all others and try not to put our own interests first.

In the second reading today, from the Letter to the Philippians, it is also clear that Jesus is not telling us that life is only about suffering. Saint Paul tells us: In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. Thus we need to know how to live in abundance and love others. We need to know how to have nothing and love others.

In the Gospel reading, we realize that Jesus really is calling everyone to come to the feast, to celebrate in the Kingdom. That call is happening right now, in your life and in my life. We respond to the call by loving others, no matter how difficult it is. Our wedding garment is love.

Prayer of the Week

A Prayer of St Teresa of Avila

Christ has no body now, but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth, but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he looks
with compassion on this world.

Let nothing disturb you.
Let nothing frighten you.
All things pass away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
Those who have God
Find they lack nothing;
God alone suffices.
Amen.

Thursday 15 October 2026

St Teresa of Ávila (1515 - 1582)



She was born in Ávila in Spain and entered the Carmelite convent there at the age of 20, not because of any great attraction to the religious life but because it seemed the most sensible thing to do. At this time Carmelite convents were comfortable places. One was well looked after, had as much contact with the outside world as one wanted, and could keep

one's own possessions. With time, and despite ill-health, she made great progress in contemplative prayer and had a number of mystical experiences, which she treated with great suspicion since she felt that she was not nearly holy enough to be accorded them by God.

Teresa's prayer life led her to seek a more perfect life, and in 1562 she founded a convent of Discalced Carmelite nuns in Ávila. "Discalced" ("shoeless") signified their devotion to poverty. The rest of her life is a story of the establishment of more and more Discalced Carmelite convents in the face of intense opposition from the unreformed Carmelites but with help coming from the highest levels at the same time. She was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

A favourite story about St Teresa illustrates the intimate relationship that the saints have with God. When she was on one of her innumerable journeys across Spain, her horse threw her as she was crossing a river. Soaked to the skin she looked up to heaven and said, "If this is how you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few of them!" We should bring everything to God in our prayers, even our reproaches.

"May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us."

St Teresa of Avila