

Saint Teresa of Jesus (1515-1582)

October 15

Let nothing disturb you; let nothing frighten you. Gifted with a passionate spirit, young Teresa dreamed of converting Muslims and becoming a martyr. All things are passing; God never changes. But her mother's death when Teresa was fourteen inspired lifelong devotion to Our Lady, and Teresa entered the Carmelites, Mary's order, despite her father's objections and her own fragile health. Patience gains everything. Initially, she enjoyed her lax convent's sociability and "busyness," but mystical prayer and John of the Cross's collaboration inspired her to reform the Carmelites. Whoever has God, lacks nothing. When her ideals encountered resistance and brought suffering, she maintained her peace—and humor. Discovered devouring leftovers, she told her mildly scandalized nuns, "When I fast, I fast! When I eat, I eat!" To nuns demanding less work and more prayer in the convent schedule, she retorted: "What we really need around here are fewer starry eyes and more strong arms!" God alone is enough! The italicized sentences here are her "Breviary Bookmark," the simple, profound prayer of Teresa, the first woman Doctor of the Church.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

God Revealed to The Nations

What wonderful images we have today of the reign of God! Isaiah speaks to us of a great feast—a heavenly feast—a feast of abundance with rich foods and choice wines. It is the Lord's own affair, Isaiah explains, when God will unite all nations, dry every tear, and destroy death forever. Then, too, will the entire earth rejoice in the Lord and bask in God's saving grace. Jesus speaks of heaven in terms of a feast as well. Here, the kingdom of heaven is likened to a king's wedding feast given for his son. This is a feast of abundance also, with the fattened cattle prepared just so. But many of the people invited don't want to come, so the king invites anyone who would honor his son by their presence there. And Paul tells us that whether we live abundantly or in humble circumstances, we can do all things in the Lord who strengthens us.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31 — 5:1; Ps 113:1b-5a, 6-7; Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday: Gal 5:1-6; Ps 119:41, 43-45, 47-48; Lk 11:37-41

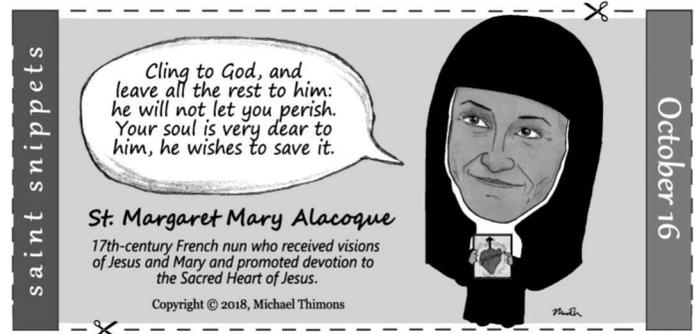
Wednesday: Gal 5:18-25; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 11:42-46

Thursday: Eph 1:1-10; Ps 98:1-6; Lk 11:47-54

Friday: Eph 1:11-14; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13; Lk 12:1-7

Saturday: Eph 1:15-23; Ps 8:2-3ab, 4-7; Lk 12:8-12

Sunday: Is 45:1, 4-6; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 7-10; 1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21



Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: Columbus Day; Canadian Thanksgiving Day

Wednesday: St. Callistus I

Thursday: St. Teresa of Jesus

Friday: St. Hedwig; St. Margaret Mary Alacoque; National Boss's Day

Saturday: St. Ignatius of Antioch

Today's Readings

First Reading — On this mountain the LORD will make for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines (Isaiah 25:6-10a).

Psalm — I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life (Psalm 23).

Second Reading — God will supply whatever you need (Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20).

Gospel — I have prepared my banquet, and everything is ready. Come to the feast! (Matthew 22:1-14 [1-10]).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



**Twenty-eighth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
October 11, 2020**

**I can do all things in him
who strengthens me.**

—Philippians 4:13

Treasures From Our Tradition

When the fathers of the Second Vatican Council met to discuss the sacrament of penance, they were required to draw up a new rite, including several forms. The hot button for debate was so-called “general absolution,” by which a penitent could be absolved of sin without confessing to a priest. This was a difficult debate, compounded by widely varying traditions in both East and West. Some were surprised to learn that the Holy See had already given permission, during the First and Second World Wars, for this form. In 1944 the Vatican issued a decree saying this form was valid under extreme conditions, which bishops in mission lands and Latin America took as a kind of “blanket permission.”

Thus, the fathers of the Council were alarmed to find this practice fairly widespread, not only in war, but in peaceful places with huge numbers of faithful and few priests. Although they eventually produced a ritual with three different forms, the forms are not considered equal, and the enriched and revised individual form is preferred. The enrichments include a welcome of the penitent, a sign of the cross with an encouragement to trust in God’s compassion, new texts rich in the Word of God, praise for God’s mercy, and a dismissal.—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co.

Today’s readings do nothing less than reveal the secret to happiness. To whet our appetite, Isaiah describes what paradise feels like: “a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich foods, and pure, choice wines.” In this paradise, says Isaiah, God dries our tears and puts an end to death. The psalm response lures us with its own descriptive words for paradise: restful, refreshing, fearless, overflowing. Just when all of these extravagant images seem too good to be true, Saint Paul’s letter brings us down to earth. Paul is confident that he will one day be in heaven, but he knows just as certainly that he is not there yet. His “secret” to happiness is to trust in God’s providence under every earthly circumstance. Echoing Isaiah’s images of paradise, the Gospel promises that the Lord has invited us all to the heavenly feast. Like Paul, may we respond with trusting hearts.

DESTROYING MURDERERS, BURNING CITIES

Jesus’ parable of the king’s wedding feast sounds extreme to our modern ears. After all, if a king—a beloved celebrity, say—were to invite us to his son’s party, which one of us would refuse, much less murder the messenger? In Matthew’s Gospel, the chief priests and elders obstinately refuse to acknowledge Jesus’ mission as the anointed Son of God. Today’s parable suggests that God will punish this stubbornness by burning their city. The extreme violence of this parable seems to be aimed at Jesus’ stubborn first-century audience, but falls short of hitting us.

RESTORING RELATIONSHIPS, BUILDING BRIDGES

Instead of dismissing or quaintly smiling at today’s parable, we can let the word of God work in our hearts. Jesus, who is the Word of God, exists in all time and knows each of us intimately. He speaks to us today through this very parable. The king’s invitation applies to us. The Creator of the universe calls us, and we must respond. Eternal life is at stake.

Today’s liturgy is a rich opportunity to identify the invitation extended by God. The liturgy itself is our collective glimpse into heaven. Perhaps the Lord is calling us to be more attentive to the liturgy, or to enter more deeply into a parish’s weekend experience. Or perhaps our liturgical prayer time today will reveal a call to service, an invitation to care intentionally for strangers in need or for people we know. Perhaps, too, we might discern a call to repair brokenness. Most of us do not witness murder or burning cities on a daily basis, but we surely know of relationships in need of repair. Once we hear the invitation to reconcile with others, we can pray for the strength to respond. Instead of ignoring the summons by filling our time with busyness, we can ask the Lord to help us apologize, or forgive, or begin a difficult conversation. “Many are invited,” Jesus tells us. He will help us respond.

Today’s Readings: Is 25:6–10a; Ps 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; Phil 4:12–14, 19–20; Mt 22:1–14 [1–10]

Sunday Readings
October 11, 2020
Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1
Is 25:6–10a

On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples
a feast of rich food and choice wines,
juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.
On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,
the web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.
The Lord GOD will wipe away
the tears from every face;
the reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.
On that day it will be said:
“Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the LORD for whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”
For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6

R. (6cd) I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days
of my life.
The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.
R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my
life.
He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
with your rod and your staff
that give me courage.
R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my
life.
You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my
life.
Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.
R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my
life.

Reading 2
Phil 4:12–14, 19–20

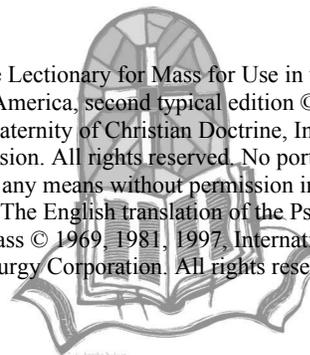
Brothers and sisters: I know how to live in humble
circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance.
In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the
secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in
abundance and of being in need. I can do all things in him
who strengthens me. Still, it was kind of you to share in
my distress.
My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord
with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and
Father, glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

**Mt 22:1–14 or 22:1–10 In the shorter form
of the reading, the passage in brackets is
omitted.**

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders
of the people in parables, saying, “The kingdom of
heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding
feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon
the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A
second time he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those
invited: “Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves
and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready;
come to the feast.”’ Some ignored the invitation and went
away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest
laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed
them. The king was enraged and sent his troops,
destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he
said to his servants, ‘The feast is ready, but those who
were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore,
into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you
find.’ The servants went out into the streets and gathered
all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled
with guests. [But when the king came in to meet the
guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding
garment. The king said to him, ‘My friend, how is it that
you came in here without a wedding garment?’ But he
was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his
attendants, ‘Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the
darkness outside, where there will be wailing and
grinding of teeth.’ Many are invited, but few are
chosen.”]

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the
United States of America, second typical edition © 2001, 1998, 1997,
1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC.
Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may
be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the
copyright owner. The English translation of the Psalm Responses from
Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on
English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



Prayer of the Faithful

Our God will fully supply whatever we need, and so we pray for all our sisters and brothers in the world.

For the holy Church of Christ to renew its invitation to all from the highways and the byways to join in the feast of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

For every nation to respond to every invitation they receive to cultivate peace throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those celebrating their own marriage feast as they embark on a new life together, showing God's love to the world in the way that they love each other, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who are hungry, who are malnourished, and who never get to experience a banquet of any kind, let us pray to the Lord.

For our community to continue to fight the evil of racism wherever we find it, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who are sick, for all who suffer from COVID-19, and for all who have died, especially N., N., and N., let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

**O God of abundance,
you have set a rich table before us,
and you promise to wipe away every tear.
Graciously hear and respond to these our prayers
which we offer today through your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ.**