

## Sunday, Oct 12, 2025

### Faith brings a wellspring of healing

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

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2 Kings 5:14-17; 2 Timothy 2:8-13; Luke 17:11-19 (144).

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

## Monday, Oct 13, 2025

### Don't say no to this invitation

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

Romans 1:1-7; Luke 11:29-32 (467). *"This generation ... seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it, except the sign of Jonah."*

## Tuesday, Oct 14, 2025

### Be slow to judge

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

Romans 1:16-25; Luke 11:37-41 (468). *"You Pharisees . . . inside you are filled with plunder and evil."*

## Wednesday, Oct 15, 2025

### A one-step program

Ever wonder whether you are in good spiritual health? It's easy to assess: If love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control come easily to you, you're in good shape. If hatred, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, and envy are your frequent reactions to events, you're in need of a spiritual workout. Let Saint Teresa of Ávila (1515-82), reformer and church doctor, be your spiritual trainer. Step one: Recite this Teresian prayer daily: "Let nothing disturb you; Let nothing dismay you; All things pass: God never changes. Patience attains all that it strives for. He who has God lacks for nothing: God

alone suffices." Step two: There is no need for a step two if you master step one.

MEMORIAL OF TERESA OF JESUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Romans 2:1-11; Luke 11:42-46 (469). *"There will be glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good."*

## Thursday, Oct 16, 2025

### We are already blessed

It helps to know things will work out before you get started on them. Paying bills is easy when you know the money is there. Getting something fixed is a less anxious experience when you have confidence in the repair person. So it is with the spiritual life. In all the apparent struggle to believe, live a holy life, and do the right thing, we can forget how much God has already done for us. And Saint Paul makes this point many times. We are already blessed. We already have redemption in Christ. God has revealed a plan for us. All we have to do is to stay close to God and follow the way. Saint Vincent de Paul understood this truth well when he asked, "Why should your soul not be filled with confidence since, by the mercy of Our Lord, you are his beloved child?" God has given us so much and promises to lead us to glory. Knowing that might make the journey a bit easier.

Romans 3:21-30; Luke 11:47-54 (470). *"The righteousness of God has been manifested ... through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe."*

## Friday, Oct 17, 2025

### A loving embrace

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

MEMORIAL OF IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP, MARTYR

Romans 4:1-8; Luke 12:1-7 (471). *"Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them has escaped the notice of God."*

## Saturday, Oct 18, 2025

### Care to share with the class

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

FEAST OF LUKE, EVANGELIST

2 Timothy 4:10-17b; Luke 10:1-9 (661). *"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few."*

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*



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