

## SUNDAY JANUARY 24

Sunday of the Word of God

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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# 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

IN TODAY'S GOSPEL, Jesus invites people to repent and believe that the "kingdom of God has come near." Throughout his ministry, in both word and deed, Jesus showed humanity that the kingdom of God is a present reality. For Christians, the appropriate response to the presence of God in real time – in the here and now – is conversion and discipleship.

In the first reading, God commands Jonah to action; he gets up and goes forth. Jonah's faithfulness to his prophetic task leads the people of Nineveh, from the grandest leaders to the smallest child, to repent and change their ways.

In the Gospel, Simon, Andrew, James and John have no way of knowing what the future holds for them as followers of Jesus. Yet, they respond without hesitation. They forsake the comfortable, familiar and certain. They place the nearness of the kingdom of God, manifest in Jesus, at the very centre of their lives.

We are also called to be followers of Jesus and prophets of our time. We are effective messengers of the good news when ongoing spiritual renewal informs our conduct and lifestyle.

May today's liturgy advance our conversion and fill us with the confidence to get up and go forth, praising God with our lives.

*Louise McEwan, Trail, BC*

## SUNDAY JANUARY 24

*Roman Missal p. 439; Sunday Lectionary p. 551*

### **Entrance Antiphon** (*Cf. Psalm 95.1, 6*)

**O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.**

### **Introductory Rites** (p. 5)

#### **Collect**

Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in 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. **Amen.**

### **First Reading** (*Jonah 3.1-5, 10*)

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The word of the Lord came to Jonah, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord.

Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

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

*Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 25)* —————

**R.** Lord, make me know your ways.

Make me to know your ways, O · **Lord**;  
teach me · **your** paths.

Lead me in your truth, and · **teach me**,  
for you are the God of my · **sal**-vation. *R.*

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast · **love**,  
for they have been from · **of** old.

According to your steadfast love re-·**member me**,  
for the sake of your goodness, · **O** Lord! *R.*

Good and upright is the · **Lord**;  
therefore he instructs sinners in · **the** way.

He leads the humble in what is · **right**,  
and teaches the humble · **his** way. *R.*

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*Second Reading (1 Corinthians 7.29-31)* —————

Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal

## SUNDAY JANUARY 24

with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

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

### **Gospel Acclamation** (*Mark 1.15*)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** The kingdom of God has come near: repent and believe the good news! **Alleluia.**

### **Gospel** (*Mark 1.14-20*)

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

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

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Come follow me and I will make you fishers of people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

As Jesus went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Profession of Faith** (p. 8)

## Prayer of the Faithful

*The following intentions are suggestions only. There are more suggestions at [www.livingwithchrist.ca](http://www.livingwithchrist.ca)*

### **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

For unity among Christians across the country and around the world, we pray to the Lord: R.

For peace in our world, our churches, our schools and our families, we pray to the Lord: R.

For all who are lonely, isolated or grieving, we pray to the Lord: R.

For ourselves gathered here, messengers of the Good News of Jesus Christ, we pray to the Lord: R.

## Preparation of the Gifts (p. 11)

### Prayer over the Offerings

Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray, and in sanctifying them grant that they may profit us for salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Preface (Sundays in Ordinary Time, p. 14)

### Communion Antiphon (Cf. Psalm 33.6)

**Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.**

*or*

*(John 8.12)*

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.**

## SUNDAY JANUARY 24

### **Prayer after Communion**

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, receiving the grace by which you bring us to new life, we may always glory in your gift. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Blessing and Dismissal (p. 31)**

# MONDAY JANUARY 25

3rd Week in Ordinary Time

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## *Feast*

### **The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle**

*Roman Missal 791; Lectionary 519*

The conversion of Paul was a turning point in the history of the early Church. See p. 178.

### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(2 Tim 1; 4)* **I know the one in whom I have believed and I am sure that he, the just judge, the mighty, will keep safe what is my due until that day.**

### **Glory to God (p. 7)**

### **Collect**

O God, who taught the whole world through the preaching of the blessed Apostle Paul, draw us, we pray, nearer to you through the example of him whose conversion we celebrate today, and so make us witnesses to your truth in the world. 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. **Amen.**

*An alternate reading follows.*

### **Reading** *(Acts 22.3-16)*

Paul spoke to the people in Jerusalem: “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, educated strictly according to our ancestral law, being zealous for God, just as all of you are today.

“I persecuted this Way up to the point of death by binding both men and women and putting them in prison, as the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me. From them I also received

letters to the brothers in Damascus, and I went there in order to bind those who were there and to bring them back to Jerusalem for punishment.

“While I was on my way and approaching Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone about me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ Then he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you are persecuting.’ Now those who were with me saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me. I asked, ‘What am I to do, Lord?’ The Lord said to me, ‘Get up and go to Damascus; there you will be told everything that has been assigned to you to do.’ Since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, those who were with me took my hand and led me to Damascus.

“A certain Ananias, who was a devout man according to the

law and well spoken of by all the Jews living there, came to me; and standing beside me, he said, ‘Brother Saul, regain your sight!’ In that very hour I regained my sight and saw him. Then Ananias said, ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear his own voice; for you will be his witness to all the world of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you delay? Get up, be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on his name.’”

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

*or*

**Reading** —————  
*(Acts 9.1-22)*

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Now as Saul was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

The men who were traveling with Saul stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a

man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."

But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name."

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and his sight was restored.

## MONDAY JANUARY 25

Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days Saul was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

All who heard Saul were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?” Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

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

**Responsorial Psalm** —————  
*(Psalm 117)*

**R. Go out to all the world and tell the good news.**

Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples! R.

For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. R.

**Acclamation** *(See John 15)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord, to go and bear fruit that will last. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** —————  
*(Mark 16.15-18)*

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

Jesus said to the Eleven, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.

“And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will

lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

As we celebrate the divine mysteries, O Lord, we pray, may the Spirit fill us with that light of faith with which he constantly enlightened the blessed Apostle Paul for the spreading of your glory. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Preface (Apostles I, p. 16)**

*The more I follow him without fear, the more he will protect me. The more I do his will, the more he will prove his love for me. —St. Marguerite Bourgeoys*

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Cf. Gal 2)* **I live by faith in the Son of God, who has loved me and given himself up for me.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

May the Sacrament we have received, O Lord our God, stir up in us that fire of charity with which the blessed Apostle Paul burned ardently as he bore his concern for all the Churches. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *Memorial*

#### **Saints Timothy and Titus**

*Roman Missal 792; Lectionary 520*

These two men were disciples of Saint Paul, and Paul's letters to them are found in the New Testament. See p. 178.

#### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Ps 95)* **Tell among the nations his glory, and his wonders among all the peoples, for the Lord is great and highly to be praised.**

#### **Collect**

O God, who adorned Saints Timothy and Titus with apostolic virtues, grant, through the intercession of them both, that, living justly and devoutly in this present age, we may merit to reach our heavenly homeland. 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. **Amen.**

*An alternate reading follows.*

#### **Reading** ————— *(2 Timothy 1.1-8)*

From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God — whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did — when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.

Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois

and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power of love and of self-discipline.

Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God.

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

*or*

**Reading (Titus 1.1-5)** —————

From Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that is in accordance with godliness, in the hope of eternal life that God, who never lies, promised before the ages began — in due time he revealed his word through the proclamation with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Saviour,

To Titus, my loyal child in the faith we share: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour.

I left you behind in Crete for this reason, so that you should put in order what remained to be done, and should appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

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

**Responsorial Psalm** —————  
(Psalm 96)

**R.** Proclaim God's marvellous deeds to all the nations.

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R.**

Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, tell of his marvellous works among all the peoples. **R.**

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name. **R.**

Say among the nations, “The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity.” R.

**Acclamation** (*Luke 4*)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** The Lord sent me to bring good news to the poor and freedom to prisoners. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** —————  
(*Luke 10.1-9*)

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

From among the disciples, the Lord appointed seventy and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.

“Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no

purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.

“Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.

“Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house.

“Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Receive, O Lord, we pray, the offerings of your people, which we bring in celebration of Saints Timothy and Titus, and, in your kindness, render us fully acceptable by giving

us sincerity of heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Preface** (*Common, p. 17 or Pastors, p. 15*)

**Communion Antiphon**

*(Mk 16; Mt 28)* **Go into all the world, and proclaim the Gospel. I am with you always, says the Lord.**

**Prayer after Communion**

May the Sacrament we have received, O Lord our God, nourish in us that faith taught by the preaching of the Apostles and kept safe by the labours of Saints Timothy and Titus. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Do not try to please everybody. Try to please God, the angels, and the saints – they are your public. —St. John Mary Vianney*

## *Ferial*

*Roman Missal 447; Lectionary 319*  
or **Saint Angela Merici**

Angela Merici, the founder of the Ursulines, believed in the importance of education for the poor and worked to educate young girls. See p. 179.

### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Cf. Ps 26)* **O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!**

### **Collect**

O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds. 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. **Amen.**

### **Reading** ————— *(Hebrews 10.11-18)*

In the former alliance, every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.”

For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the

Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,” he also adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

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

**Responsorial Psalm** —————  
(*Psalm 110*)

**R.** You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The Lord says to my lord, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.” **R.**

The Lord sends out from Zion your mighty sceptre. Rule in the midst of your foes. **R.**

Your people will offer themselves willingly on the day you lead your forces on the holy mountains. From the womb of the morning, like dew, your youth will come to you. **R.**

The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a

priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” **R.**

**Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** —————  
(*Mark 4.1-20*)

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

Jesus began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the water and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them:

“Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil.

And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away.

“Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.” And he said, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!”

When Jesus was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; in order that ‘they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.’”

And Jesus said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables?”

“The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path

where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.

“And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

O God, who in the offerings presented here provide for the

twofold needs of human nature, nourishing us with food and renewing us with your Sacrament, grant, we pray, that the sustenance they provide may not fail us in body or in spirit. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

**(Ps 26) There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

*or*

**(Jn 17) Holy Father, keep in your name those you have given me, that they may be one as we are one, says the Lord.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord, foreshadows the union of the faithful in you, so may it bring about unity in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*You will accomplish more by kind words and a courteous manner than by anger or sharp rebuke, which should never be used except in necessity. —St. Angela Merici*

## Memorial

### Saint Thomas Aquinas

*Roman Missal 793/1084; Lectionary 320*

Thomas Aquinas is a Doctor of the Church whose intellect and insights have had a profound influence on the Church. See p. 179.

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Cf. Sirach 15)* **In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth, and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding and clothed him in a robe of glory.**

*or*

*(Ps 36)* **The mouth of the just man utters wisdom, and his tongue tells forth what is just; the law of his God is in his heart.**

### Collect

O God, who made Saint Thomas Aquinas outstanding in his zeal for holiness and his study of sacred doctrine, grant us, we pray, that we may understand what he taught and imitate what he accomplished.

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. **Amen.**

### Reading

*(Hebrews 10.19-25)*

My friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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

**Responsorial Psalm** —————  
(Psalm 24)

**R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.**

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. R.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false. R.

They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication

from the God of their salvation. Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. R.

**Acclamation** (Psalm 119)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** —————  
(Mark 4.21-25)

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

Jesus told this parable to the disciples, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have

## THURSDAY JANUARY 28

nothing, even what they have will be taken away.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

May the sacrifice which we gladly present on the feast day of blessed Thomas Aquinas, be pleasing to you, O God, for, taught by him, we, too, give ourselves entirely to you in praise. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Preface** (*Common, p. 17 or Pastors, p. 15*)

### **Communion Antiphon**

(*Cf. Lk 12*) **Behold a faithful and prudent steward to give**

**them their allowance of food at the proper time.**

*or*

(*Cf. Ps 1*) **He who ponders the law of the Lord day and night will yield his fruit in due season.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Through Christ the teacher, O Lord, instruct those you feed with Christ, the living Bread, that on the feast day of blessed Thomas Aquinas they may learn your truth and express it in works of charity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible. —St. Thomas Aquinas*

### *Ferial*

*Roman Missal 448; Lectionary 321*

### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Cf. Ps 27)* **The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.**

### **Collect**

Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love. 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. **Amen.**

### **Reading**

*(Hebrews 10.32-39)*

Beloved, recall those earlier days when, after you had been enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly

exposed to abuse and persecution, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion for those who were in prison, and you cheerfully accepted the plundering of your possessions, knowing that you yourselves possessed something better and more lasting.

Do not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours; it brings a great reward. For you need endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

For yet “in a very little while, the one who is coming will come and will not delay; but my righteous one will live by faith. My soul takes no pleasure in anyone who shrinks back.”

But we are not among those who shrink back and so are lost, but among those who have faith and so are saved.

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

**Responsorial Psalm** —————  
*(Psalm 37)*

**R.** **The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.**

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. *R.*

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday. *R.*

Our steps are made firm by the Lord, when he delights in our way; though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong, for the Lord holds us by the hand. *R.*

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their refuge in the time of trouble. The Lord helps them and rescues them; he rescues them from the wicked, and saves

them, because they take refuge in him. *R.*

**Acclamation** *(Matthew 11)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** —————  
*(Mark 4.26-34)*

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

Jesus told the people a parable, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, without the sower knowing how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we

use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise and grant that, cleansed by

its action, we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps 144)* **The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.**

*or*

*(Jn 10)* **I am the Good Shepherd, and I lay down my life for my sheep, says the Lord.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son, we ask of your mercy, O Lord, that what we celebrate with constant devotion may be our sure pledge of redemption. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Know that the greatest service that a person can offer to God is to help convert souls. —St. Rose of Lima*

## *Ferial*

*Roman Missal 449; Lectionary 322*  
or **Our Lady's Saturday** (p. 96)

### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Ps 46)* **All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!**

### **Collect**

O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be children of light, grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth. 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. **Amen.**

### **Reading** —————

*(Hebrews 11.1-2, 8-19)*

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith Sarah herself, though barren, received power to conceive, even when she was too old, because she considered God faithful who had promised.

Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return.

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom he had been told, “It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you.” Abraham considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead — and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back.

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

*Responsorial Cantic* ———  
(*Luke 1*)

**R. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who has come to his people.**

The Lord has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old. *R.*

That we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant. *R.*

The oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. *R.*

*Acclamation (John 3)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son, that all who believe

in him might have eternal life.  
**Alleluia.**

**Gospel** —————  
*(Mark 4.35-41)*

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

All day long, Jesus had spoken to the crowd in parables. When evening had come, Jesus said to the disciples, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him.

A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.

He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Prayer over the Offerings**

O God, who graciously accomplish the effects of your mysteries, grant, we pray, that the deeds by which we serve you may be worthy of these sacred gifts. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Communion Antiphon**

*(Cf. Ps 102)* **Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.**

*or*

*(Jn 17)* **O Father, I pray for them, that they may be one in us, that the world may believe that you have sent me, says the Lord.**

**Prayer after Communion**

May this divine sacrifice we have offered and received fill us with life, O Lord, we pray,

so that, bound to you in lasting charity, we may bear fruit that lasts for ever. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Never will anyone who says their rosary every day be led astray. This is a statement that I would gladly sign with my blood.* —St. Louis Grignon de Montfort

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