Celebrate the Word

SUNDAY Plus

20 SEPTEMBER 2026

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week I** Year A

Season of Creation

To God in silence

There is [an] instrument that I would like to recommend to you: sacred scripture… We use its words to go beyond conceptions and reach silence. How do you do that? Take a scripture passage, "On the last and greatest of the feast days, Jesus stood up and said in a loud voice, 'Let whoever is thirsty come to me and drink.'" Suppose that when you read it you are touched by Jesus' words. What are you to do? Recite this line in your heart: "Let whoever is thirsty come to me and drink!" Repeat, repeat, until your heart is satisfied. There is no need to think about the meaning of the words, because your heart knows the meaning…

This is one way to use the words of scripture, to go beyond them, to silence. Read, recite, and respond. Soon the reaction will be silence, and in silence you will find God.

There is another way to use scripture. You remain in silence, looking and listening. That will lead you to silence. And when you reach this deep tranquility, recall a line from the Bible.

Do you know what will happen? The words of scripture will seem etched in your heart. They will have such a strong meaning that it will deepen the silence. They have a meaning beyond the mind. Could these words disturb your silence? No! It is like the peace and quiet of evening, and you hear a bird or the tolling of a church bell, and these sounds deepen your silence.

Anthony de Mello SJ, *Walking on Water*



The more joy you share, the more joy you create.

Pope Leo XIV

Praise God in Creation!

Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures,
Especially Sir Brother Sun
Who is the day and through whom you give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour.
And bears a likeness of you, Most High One.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
In heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful…

Praised be you, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
Who sustains and governs us,
And who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.

St Francis of Assisi, The Canticle of the Creatures

Loving Lord, you are our source of life, love, and light. You are our joy and hope, our home and security. Help us to spread your sweetness everywhere. ✠ Amen.

Feast of the week
Monday 21 September

St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

St Matthew, the tax collector turned apostle, reminds us that no one is beyond the reach of grace. When Jesus called him Matthew didn't hesitate: he rose and followed. That moment of surrender transformed a man once seen as corrupt into a faithful witness of the Gospel.

Matthew's story is a testament to divine mercy. He didn't earn his place among the apostles through virtue but through Christ's invitation. His Gospel reveals a heart attuned to justice, compassion and the radical inclusivity of the kingdom.

As we reflect on his call we're invited to examine our own readiness to follow. Are we willing to leave behind what binds us – status, comfort, fear – and walk in faith? St Matthew's feast is not just a celebration of his life, but a challenge to ours: to hear Jesus' voice and respond with courage, humility and hope.

READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 55:6-9
Philippians 1:20-24. 27
Matthew 20:1-16

Monday:
Ephesians 4:1-7. 11-13
Matthew 9:9-13

Tuesday:
Proverbs 21:1-6. 10-13
Luke 8:19-21

Wednesday:
Proverbs 30:5-9
Luke 9:1-6

Thursday:
Ecclesiastes 1:2-11
Luke 9:7-9

Friday:
Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
Luke 9:18-22

Saturday:
Ecclesiastes 11:9 – 12:8
Luke 9:43-45

Next Sunday:
Ezekiel 18:25-28
Philippians 2:1-11
Matthew 21:28-32

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