

Reading for the Memorial of St Teresa of Avila

15th October 2026

First reading

Ephesians 1:1-10

‘God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world.’

Paul, an Apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us in all wisdom and insight, making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 98(97):1. 2-3b. 3c-4. 5-6. R3cd

The Lord has made known his salvation.

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders.

His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation, has shown his deliverance to the nations.

He has remembered his merciful love and his truth for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song, and sing out your praise.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn, raise a shout before the King, the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 11:47-54

‘The blood of the prophets may be charged against this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah.’

At that time: Jesus said, ‘Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs. Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, “I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute”, so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation. Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering.’

As he went away from there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to press him hard and to provoke him to speak about many things, lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say.

Short reflection on the reading for today

We will be reading for the next weeks from the letter to the Ephesians. It is a very beautiful letter, both in its richness of language and its message. It was not written by Paul himself, but written under his name by one of his disciples after Paul died, as a final summary of his message.

We have read the opening verses, which are a prayer of blessing, 'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...' God is praised for all that we have received. It mentions the *richness* of God's grace that has been showered on us through Christ. We know all about showers in this climate. The next time we are tempted to complain about rain, we might think of that expression, 'the richness of grace showered upon us.'

Through the life-giving blood of Christ we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. In return, we are moved 'to praise the glory of God's grace', which we do in the Eucharist and every time we pause to pray. Having been showered with grace, we give thanks and try to live under that influence.

These are the readings for the memorial

First reading

Romans 8:22-27

'The Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.'

Brothers and Sisters: We know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 19(18):8. 9. 10. 11. R 10b or John 6:63c

*The judgements of the Lord are true;
they are, all of them, just.*

or: Your words, O Lord, are Spirit and life.

The law of the Lord is perfect; it revives the soul.

The decrees of the Lord are steadfast; they give wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right; they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear; it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is pure, abiding for ever.

The judgements of the Lord are true; they are, all of them, just.

They are more to be desired than gold, than quantities of gold.

And sweeter are they than honey, than honey flowing from the comb.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn15:9,5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Remain in my love, says the Lord;

whoever remains in me, with me in him,

bears fruit in plenty.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 15:1-8

‘Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine dresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch, and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.’