

Fr. Roger J. Landry
“Becoming Ambassadors of Mercy Incarnate and Ministers of Mercy Above All”
Continuing Education Convocation of Priests
of the Diocese of Tulsa
During the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy
Tulsa, Oklahoma
January 25-27, 2016

Preaching the Mercy of God in this Year of Mercy:
Suggestions Based on the Lectionary and Liturgical Cycle

- Introduction
 - By God’s providence, the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy is taking place in a year in which the Sunday Mass readings are taken from Cycle C. Whereas God’s mercy is conspicuous in all four Gospels, St. Luke’s Gospel has often be referred to as the Gospel of Mercy because of his consistent focus on the various manifestations of Christ’s merciful love, especially with regard to reconciliation with God.
 - In the Homiletic Directory published by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in 2014, it says about Year C of the liturgical cycle:
 - YEAR C: The doctrine proper to the Gospel of Luke is above all the gentleness and forgiveness that were the hallmarks of Christ’s ministry. From the beginning of his mission until he nears Jerusalem, those who encounter Jesus, from Peter (5th Sunday) to Zacchaeus (31st Sunday) become aware of their need for forgiveness and for God’s great mercy. Several stories peculiar to Luke’s Gospel illustrate this theme of divine mercy throughout the course of the year: the penitent woman (11th Sunday), the Good Samaritan (15th Sunday), the lost sheep and the prodigal son (24th Sunday), and the good thief (34th Sunday). There are also warnings for those who do not show mercy: maledictions as well as beatitudes (6th Sunday), the rich fool (18th Sunday), and the rich man and Lazarus (26th Sunday). Written for Gentiles, Luke’s Gospel underscores how God’s mercy reaches beyond his chosen people to embrace those who were formerly excluded. This theme appears often on these Sundays, and is a warning for us as we gather to celebrate the Eucharist: we have received the bountiful mercy of Christ, and there can be no frontiers to the mercy we share with others.
 - It’s worthwhile as priests and deacons to look ahead to what is coming to see the opportunities before us to preach about the mercy of God and to allow God to begin in us the proximate preparation for those occasions.
- Liturgical
 - Jan 31, Fourth Sunday in OT
 - Vocation from the womb to be a prophet of conversion
 - Strive for the greatest spiritual gifts. Love is patient, kind, doesn’t brood over injury. God’s love endures
 - Nazarenes refuse to accept Jesus as the Messiah
 - Feb 7, Fifth Sunday in OT
 - God purifies Isaiah of his unclean lips, to remove his wickedness and purge his sin.
 - Paul’s witness of how he was an “abortion” but God mercifully treated him and chose him as an apostle.
 - Peter’s call, despite “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man.”
 - Feb 10, Ash Wednesday
 - “Return to me with your whole heart.”
 - “Be merciful O Lord for we have sinned.”
 - “Be reconciled to God”
 - Feb 14, 1st Sunday of Lent

- God strengthens in temptations to distort our relationship with God, with others, within ourselves.
- Feb 21, 2nd Sunday of Lent
 - Abraham and trusting in the Lord
 - Be imitators of me, not enemies of the Cross
 - Transfiguration: focus on the “exodus,” “Listen to him.”
- Feb 28, 3rd Sunday of Lent
 - Moses, Burning Bush, Fire of Mercy that purifies without consuming
 - The Lord is kind and merciful
 - Israelites all received God’s blessings in the desert, but God was not pleased. This is a warning.
 - Tower of Siloam and Pilate’s slaughter: “If you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!”
- March 6, 4th Sunday of Lent
 - Christ has reconciled us and given us the ministry of reconciliation. Ambassadors of Christ through whom God implores, “Be reconciled to God!”
 - Parable of the Prodigal Son: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.” “My son was dead and has been brought back to life again.”
 - Laetare Sunday: Pope Francis, “God’s greatest joy is forgiving.” Reconciliation as the means to enter into the Father’s joy.
- March 13, 5th Sunday of Lent
 - Is: “Remember not the events of the past... I am doing something new.”
 - “I consider everything as loss compared with the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”
 - “Neither do I condemn you. Go and from now on do not sin any more.”
- March 20, Palm Sunday
 - “Once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers”
 - “Are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”
 - “Jesus turned and looked at Peter ... and he went out and wept bitterly.”
 - “Release Barabbas to us. ... Crucify him!”
 - Simon of Cyrene
 - “Father forgive them, they know not what they do.”
 - “Jesus, remember me.”
- March 24, Holy Thursday
 - Passover Lamb
 - “The devil had induced Judas ... to hand him over.”
 - “Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance in me.”
 - “Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed. ... You are clean, but not all.”
- March 25, Good Friday
 - “He was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, upon him is the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we are healed.”
 - “If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life and the will of the Lord shall be accomplished through him.”
 - “He surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; and he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses.”
 - “We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tested in every way yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.”
 - “Peter denied it.”
 - “I find no guilt in him.”
 - “The one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.”
 - “Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!”

- “They will look upon him whom they have pierced.”
- March 26, Easter Vigil
 - “Lord send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.”
 - “Take your son Isaac ... and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust.”
 - Passing through the Red Sea: “The Lord saved Israel on that day.”
 - Is: “But with enduring love I take pity on you, says the Lord, your redeemer.”
 - Is “Seek the Lord, while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the Lord for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving.”
 - Ezek: “Not for your sakes do I act, house of Israel, but for the sake of my holy name which you profaned among the nations to which you came... I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees.”
 - “We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life... Our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. ... Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.”
- March 27, Easter Sunday
 - “Everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”
 - “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.”
 - “If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above. ... Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
 - Sequence: “Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!”
- April 3, Divine Mercy Sunday
 - “Let those who fear the Lord say, ‘His mercy endures forever.’”
 - “As the Father has sent me, so I send you. ... Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them and whose sins you retain are retained.”
- April 10, 3rd Sunday of Easter
 - “We must obey God rather than men.”
 - “God exalted him at his right hand as leader and savior to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these things.”
 - “Hear, O Lord, and have pity on me”
 - “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing.”
 - “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”
- April 17, 4th Sunday of Easter
 - “The Lord is good: his kindness endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”
 - “They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”
 - “My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand.”
- April 24, 5th Sunday of Easter
 - “The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.”
 - “Behold I make all things new”
 - “As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- May 1, 6th Sunday of Easter
 - “If you keep free of these, you will be doing what is right.”

- “May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us.”
 - “Its lamp was the Lamb...”
 - “Whoever loves me will keep my word...”
 - “Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid...”
- May 5, Ascension Thursday
 - “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses...”
 - “So also Christ, offered once to take away the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to take away sin but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await him. ... Let us approach with a sincere heart and in absolute trust, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water.”
 - “Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations. ... You are witnesses of these things.”
- May 8, 7th Sunday of Easter
 - “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”
 - “Behold, I am coming soon. I bring with me the recompense I will give to each according to his deeds. ... Blessed are they who wash their robes...”
 - “Holy Father, I pray ... for those who will believe in me ... that they all may be one ... that the world may believe that you sent me ... and that you loved them even as you loved me.”
- May 14, Pentecost Vigil
 - “Come, let us build ourselves a city ... and so make a name for ourselves.”
 - Son of man, can these bones come to life?” “O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them and bring you back. ... Then you shall know that I am the Lord. I will put my spirit in you that you may live. ... I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord!”
 - “Everyone shall be rescued who calls on the name of the Lord.”
 - “Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.”
 - “The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought.”
 - “Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink.”
- May 15, Pentecost
 - “Yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.”
 - “Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.”
 - “Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. ... If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. ... For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”
 - Sequence: “Where you are not, we have naught, nothing good in deed or thought, nothing free from taint of ill. Hell our wounds, our strength renew; on our dryness pour your dew; wash the stains of guilt away: bend the stubborn heart and will; melt the frozen, warm the chill; guide the steps that go astray.”
 - “As the Father has sent me, so I send you. ... Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them and whose sins you retain are retained.”
- May 22, Holy Trinity
 - “Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ... Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”
- May 29, Corpus Christi
 - “The Lord has sown and he will not repent: ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek’”

- Sequence: “Bad and good the feast are sharing, of what divers dooms preparing, endless death or endless life. Life to these, to those damnation. See how like participation is with unlike issues rife.”
 - “Give them some food yourselves. ... Five loaves and two fish are all we have.”
- June 3, Sacred Heart
 - “I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered.... The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal.”
 - “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.”
 - “The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”
 - Lost sheep: “In just the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who have no need of repentance.”
- June 5, 10th Sunday in OT
 - Elijah’s resuscitating the dead son of the widow of Zarephath: “O Lord my God, let the life breath return to the body of this child. ... See! Your son is alive!”
 - “I will praise you Lord, for you have rescued me.”
 - “Hear, O Lord, and have pity on me; O Lord be my helper.”
 - “You heard of my former way of life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. ... But when God, who from my mother’s womb had set me apart was pleased to reveal his Son to me...”
 - “When the Lord saw [the widow of Nain], he was moved with pity for her.” “Young man, I tell you, arise.” “God has visited his people.”
- June 12, 11th Sunday in OT
 - Nathan to David: “Why have you rejected the Lord and done evil in his sight?”
 - David to Nathan: “I have sinned against the Lord.”
 - Nathan to David: “The Lord on his part has forgiven your sin. You shall not die.”
 - “Lord, forgive the wrong I have done.”
 - “Blessed is the one whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered. Blessed the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit there is no guile. I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said, ‘I confess my faults to the Lord,’ and you took away the guilt of my sin.”
 - “I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me.”
 - “There was a sinful woman in the city.”
 - “So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven because she has shown great love. The one to whom little is forgiven loves little.”
- June 19, 12th Sunday in OT
 - Zech: “They shall look on him whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only son, and they shall grieve over him as one grieves over a firstborn.”
 - “Who do you say that I am?”
 - “The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

- “If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.”
- June 26, 13th Sunday in OT
 - “You will not abandon my soul to the netherworld nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.”
 - “For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery. ... Do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love. ... If you go on biting and devouring one another, beware that you are not consumed by one another. ... Live by the Spirit and you will certainly not gratify the desires of the flesh.”
 - “Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?” Jesus turned and rebuked them.”
 - “No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Affection for sin)
- July 3, 14th Sunday in OT
 - “As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you!”
 - “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.”
 - “Peace and mercy be to all who follow this rule”
 - “I bear the marks of Jesus on my body.”
 - “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”
 - “It will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day for that down.”
 - “Even the demons are subject to us become of your name.”
- July 10, 15th Sunday in OT
 - “If only you would heed the voice of the Lord, your God, and keep his commandments and statutes that are written in this book of the law, when you return to the Lord, your God with all your heart and all your soul.”
 - “In him all the fullness was pleased to dwell and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross.”
 - “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.’ ... Do this and you will live.”
 - “But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them.”
 - “Which of these ... was neighbor to the robbers’ victim? ... The one who treated him with mercy. ... God and do likewise.”
- July 17, 16th Sunday in OT
 - Abraham’s hospitality
 - “He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord”
 - “One who walks blamelessly and does justice; who thinks the truth in his heart and slanders not with his tongue. Who lends not his money for profit and accepts no bribe against the innocent. One who does these things shall never be disturbed.”
 - “In my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the Church, of which I am a minister.”
 - “It is he whom we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.”
 - “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.”
- July 24, 17th Sunday in OT

- “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grave that I must go down...”
 - “Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty?... Should not the judge of all the world act with justice?”
 - “Even when you were dead in transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he brought you to life along with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, obliterating the bond against us, with its legal claims ... nailing it to the Cross.”
 - “When you pray, say: ... forgives us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test.”
 - “Ask and you will receive...”
 - “If you, then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”
- July 31, 18th Sunday in OT
 - “Vanity of vanities! All things are vanity!”
 - “If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”
 - “If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above. ... Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
 - “Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry. Stop lying to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self.”
 - “Take care to guard against all greed.”
 - “You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong? Thus will it be for all who ... are not rich in what matters to God.”
- Aug 7, 19th Sunday in OT
 - “May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us who have put our hope in you.”
 - Abraham “reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead and he received Isaac back as a symbol.”
 - “Where you treasure is, there also will your heart be.”
 - Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.”
 - “If the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”
 - “If the Servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, to eat and drink and get drunk, then that servant’s master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish the servant severely and assign him a place with the unfaithful.”
- Aug 14, 20th Sunday in OT
 - God rescued Jeremiah from the pit.
 - “The Lord heard my cry. He drew me out of the pit of destruction.”
 - “In your struggle against sin, you have not resisted to the point of shedding blood.”
 - “I have come to set the earth on fire and how I wish it were already blazing!”
 - “Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.” (Sin divides)
- Aug 15, Assumption
 - “A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun with the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of twelve stars.”
 - “Then another sign appeared in the sky... a huge dragon ... [that] stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth.”
 - “Now have salvation and power come, and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of his Anointed One.”

- “Since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ, all shall be brought to life.”
 - “How does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”
 - “The Almighty ... has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. ... He has lifted up the lowly. ... He has filled the hungry with good things. ... He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.”
- Aug 21, 21st Sunday in OT
 - “For steadfast is his kindness toward us and the fidelity of the Lord endures forever.”
 - “My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges.”
 - “Lord, will only a few people be saved?” ... “Strive to enter through the narrow gate.”
 - “I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!”
- Aug 28, 22nd Sunday in OT
 - “You have approached ... God the judge of all, ... and Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and the sprinkled blood that speaks more eloquently than that of Abel.”
 - “Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”
 - “When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”
- Sept 4, 23rd Sunday in OT
 - “In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.”
 - “Return O Lord! ... Have pity on your servants!”
 - To be Jesus’ disciples, we must love him more than family members, our own life, our possession, and pick up our Cross and follow after him. We must calculate the cost and number the troops.
- Sept 11, 24th Sunday in OT
 - “Go down at once to your people ... for they have become depraved. They have soon turned aside from the way I pointed out to them, making for themselves a molten calf and worshiping it.”
 - “Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me. A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn.”
 - “I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and arrogant, but I have been mercifully treated.”
 - “This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Of these I am the foremost. But for that reason I was mercifully treated, so that in me, as the foremost, Christ Jesus might display all his patience as an example for those who could come to believe in him for everlasting life.”
 - “Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”
 - Lost sheep: “There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous people who have no need of repentance.”
 - Lost coin: “There will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”
 - Lost son: “Father I have sinned against heaven and against you.” ... “Let us celebrate with a feast because this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.”
- Sept 18, 25th Sunday in OT

- “Hear this, you who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land! ... The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Never will I forget a thing they have done!”
 - “There is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as ransom for all.”
 - “Prepare a full account of your stewardship.”
 - “The children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of life.”
 - “No servant can serve two masters. ... You cannot serve both God and mammon.”
- Sept 25, 26th Sunday in OT
 - “Woe to the complacent!”
 - “The fatherless and the widow he sustains, but the way of the wicked he thwarts.”
 - “I charge you before God ... to keep the commandment without stain or reproach.”
 - The rich man and Lazarus: sins of omission; listening to Moses and the Prophets; the eternal chasm.
 - “I am suffering torment in these flames.”
 - “If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.”
- Oct 2, 27th Sunday in OT
 - “If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”
 - “Your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works.”
 - “Stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control.”
 - “We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.”
 - Christ will nevertheless wait on us in the eternal banquet if we are those unprofitable servants!
- Oct 9, 28th Sunday in OT
 - Naaman plunged seven times in the Jordan. Trusting in the Lord’s word. Baptism.
 - “This saying is trustworthy: if we have died with him, we shall also live with him; if we persevere, we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.”
 - “Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!”
 - “Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine?”
 - “Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.”
- Oct 16, 29th Sunday in OT
 - Moses: When his hands were raised in prayer, Israel had the upper hand. Importance of prayer for success in the battle for virtue and against sin.
 - “Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it.”
 - “Proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.”
 - ““Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily.”
 - “When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”
- Oct 23, 30th Sunday in OT
 - “The Lord ... hears the cry of the oppressed, ... is not deaf to the wail of the orphan.” “The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds; it does not rest till it reaches its goal, nor will it withdraw till the Most High responds.”
 - “When the just cry out, the Lord hears them, and from all their distress, he rescues them. ... No one incurs guilt who takes refuge in him.”

- “I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.”
 - “Everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them!”
 - “But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength. ... The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom.”
 - Parable of the Pharisee and Publican.
 - “O God, be merciful to me a sinner.”
 - “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”
- Oct 30, 31st Sunday in OT
 - “But you have mercy on all ... and you overlook people’s sins that they may repent. ... You spare all things because they are yours, O Lord and lover of souls. ... Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little, warn them and remind them of the sins they are committing, that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you, O Lord!”
 - “The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.”
 - “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.”
 - “He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner.”
 - “Today salvation has come to this house”
 - “The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.”
- Nov 1, All Saints Day
 - “Salvation comes from our God who is seated on the throne and from the Lamb.”
 - “These are the ones who have ... washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb.”
 - “Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.” (Misericordiae Vultus, the Face of Mercy)
 - “Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord or who may stand in his holy place? One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain. ... Such is the race that seeks him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.”
 - “See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. ... Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure and he is pure.”
 - “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”
- Nov 6, 32nd Sunday in OT
 - Mother and seven sons. “We are ready to die rather than transgress the laws of our ancestors. ... You are depriving us of this present life, but the King of the world will raise us up to live again forever. ... It is my choice to die at the hands of me with the hope God gives of being raised up by him.”
 - “Pray for us ... that we may be delivered from perverse and wicked people.”
 - “The Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.”
 - “God is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.”
- Nov 13, 33rd Sunday in OT
 - “Lo, the day is coming, blazing like an oven, when all the proud and all evildoers will be stubble, and the that is that coming will set them on fire. ... But for you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays.”
 - “We hear that some are conducting themselves among you in a disorderly way, by not keeping busy about minding the business of others.”
 - “They will seize and persecute you, ... hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, ... have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony. ... I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute. ... By your perseverance you will secure your lives.
- Nov 20, 34th Sunday in OT

- “Let us give thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light. He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”
- “Through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross.”
- “Save yourself and us.”
- “Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? ... We have been condemned justly, ... but this man has done nothing criminal.”
- “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”
- “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”