



Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee

November 2025

In All Circumstances...?

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

There is a scripture quote that seems appropriate for the month of November, but can make us very uncomfortable. It is from 1 Thessalonians 5:18: “In all circumstances, give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

Really? I get rear-ended at an intersection? I get a cancer diagnosis? Come now. But maybe we should take a second look, and ponder a bit. It doesn't say to give thanks for what has happened to you. It says to give thanks in all circumstances, no matter what has happened to you. Then what am I thanking for?

The scripture has a way of being right on, even when I am misunderstanding it. No matter what circumstances you find yourself in, you are never alone. God has your back. God said so: “I am with you always...I in you and you in me...” If we really believe that this Love has me...no matter what...what am I afraid of? This sounds crazy, but it's not. It's faith's common sense. This is an assuring Word as we approach the month of reflection on end-time. We are winding up the Church Year. We've been in disciple-formation time for 33 weeks. What does our Elder, the Church, want to sum up with us?

First, what assures us that we get to eternal life? Then who are you really as a baptized person? Next, what should your posture be before God when you meet this Holy One? Finally, what should we be looking at? These are our four Sundays, our wrap-up formation review, our check-point Charlie. Get ready.

You say you want me
to keep my eyes in
the right place? Me?
The only temple you really
want? Standing up, looking
at a thorn-crowned King?
OK.



Thank you to S. Mary Paynter for this month's reflections.

November 2, 2025 | Feast of the Holy Souls

Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9, 2 Corinthians 4: 14 - 5: 1, John 11: 17 - 27

In the first reading today Isaiah tell us that the Lord “will provide for all people,” and “will wipe away the tears from all faces.” And in today's Gospel, we see Martha running out to meet Jesus after the death of her brother. Her deep faith brings her to cry out, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You!” In my own moments of grief or darkness, do I have Martha's faith? Can I also trust that Jesus hears my cry and will wipe away my tears?

November 9, 2025 | Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9, 12, Corinthians:3:9-11, 16-17, John 2:13-22

Today's liturgy (somewhat oddly) commemorates a building - the Lateran basilica in Rome - but the readings today open us up to much deeper meanings of “church” or “temple” or “basilica”. Ezekiel is led to the entrance of the temple and the waters of life that flow from it. The psalmist reminds us of God's holy dwelling and the waters that gladden it. And then St. Paul tells us, each of us, “Do you not know that you are God's building, you are the temple of God.”

If, then, I am God's temple, what “waters of life flow” from me?

November 16, 2025 | 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Malachi 3:19-20a, 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12, Luke 21:5-19

St. Luke records the words of Jesus telling the people to expect dire events that lie ahead, echoing the warnings of Malachi. Yet the psalmist reminds us that God “will come to rule the earth with justice.” Meanwhile, we need to heed the good advice that St. Paul offers the Thessalonians. Paul observes that some folks “keep busy minding the business of others,” but he urges them (and us!) to “work quietly” whatever trials lie ahead, trusting in God's promise of justice. As I struggle, is “trust” in God's promise part of my daily prayer?

November 23, 2025 | The Last Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Samuel 5:1-3, 1 Colossians: 12-20, Luke 23: 35-43

Today's readings complete what is called “ordinary time” with a simple but extraordinary message. As we prepare for the Advent of a new Church year, let's pause to ponder the words of the “good” criminal to Jesus, “Remember me when you come into your kingdom.” How simple and direct is that prayer! Let's ask ourselves—how do I pray? Is my prayer as simple and direct, as deeply heartfelt as, “Jesus, remember me?”

November 30, 2025 | The First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2: 1-5, Romans 13: 11-14, Matthew 24: 37-44

Today marks the start of a “new year” in the Church's liturgy, and St. Paul urges us “to awake from sleep.” Perhaps each of us could “awake” by making one new year's resolution based on a personal response to today's readings. How do I answer Isaiah's call: “Let us climb the Lord's mountain that God may instruct us, so that we walk in God's paths?” What might “God's path” demand of me this year? Am I willing to “climb a mountain?”