



Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee *October 2025*

The Leaves

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

They speak. Listen. They are all around us, and they reveal much to us about our own lives. They peek out in spring with a fresh luscious green, drink in the sunlight, and begin that marvelous process of photosynthesis that makes sap and sugar for their trees and plants. So it was with us years back...the crazy wonderful joy we brought our parents, and then all the growing and the learning! Then those delicate leaves had to endure all the summer storms, the heat, and the effort to shake off the very pollution that could poison them. We've had our tough times too. Many decisions we had to make, many memories we would just as soon forget. The leaves then surprise us. They turn colors we cannot predict: amber, orange, and yellow...maroon and tan. We don't look like our young selves anymore either. Parts of us seem to want to stop working. And then they just let go, those leaves. They just crumble, break up, and become part of the earth. In a way, that is what happens with us too. But we protest. But what if we didn't? What if we just blinked and let go? What if we trusted ourselves to that Love that put us here in the first place?

The liturgical texts of October are the dance lessons for disciples. They call us to Let go, and let Love as we move into the final weeks of Ordinary Time. First, we are reminded that it is the faith given us in baptism that gets us on our feet for the dance. We keep on keeping on, even though we don't see where the dance is going. Then we are reminded to thank in all circumstances...for even if my whole life comes crashing down, nothing can separate me from the Love that holds me tight. Then we are reminded to cultivate a holy stubbornness, to cling to the Word and point ourselves in the direction of constant prayer like a compass. Finally, we are challenged to become our prayer...yes, broken, wounded, helpless as we are, we become ambassadors for the poor, and God cannot resist the cry of the poor. We let go... and like the leaves, we let God finish the story of our lives.

*Those leaves scare me...sad... So beautiful...then they are gone.
The trees become bare. I hardly recognize myself when I look in the mirror.
Smile.
Love asks, "May I have this dance?"*

Thank you to S. Pat Mapes for this month's reflections.

October 5, 2025 | 27th Week in Ordinary Time
Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4 | 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14 | Luke 17:5-10

In today's readings we hear how God has given us the power of love and faith. Even in times of violence, misery and hardship we are reminded that God did not give us spirits of cowardice, or embarrassment. God shares that love and faith with us through Jesus. Though our faith may seem the size of a mustard seed, the Holy Spirit that dwells within us helps us to grow in our faith and become a just and loving person. How do you continue to grow in faith and love and share it with others?



October 12, 2025 | 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Kings 5:14-17 | 2 Timothy 2:8-18 | Luke 17:11-19

In today's readings God has revealed His saving power. Naaman returned to Elisha, and acknowledged that there was no other God in all of earth after he was cleansed of his leprosy. In the Gospel ten lepers cry out to Jesus for pity, he tells them to present themselves to the priest and they were cleansed along the way. One came back praising the Lord. Two lepers, both foreigners, came back glorifying God. When God answers your pleas for assistance, are you the foreigner who comes back glorifying God or do you just assume that you deserved God's favor? How has this changed you? Share how God has touched you.

October 19, 2025 | 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 17:8-13 | 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:2 | Luke 18: 1-8

Today's readings remind us that our help is from the Lord. We all need help some time or another. Moses needed the help to hold his arms up. Throughout our lives we are taught, by many. Scripture tell us to be persistent. Was not the widow persistent with the judge? How are you remaining faithful to what you have been taught through the Scriptures? How are you persistent?

October 26, 2025 | 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18 | 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 | Luke 18:9-14

In today's readings God hears the cry of the poor, the orphan and the widow. God stands beside us and gives us strength. And God is merciful to the sinners. God hears our cries and judges justly. How have I shown mercy to those in need as God has shown mercy to me, a sinner?