



Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee

October 2026

The Strangest Fruit

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

We have celebrated the Feast of the Holy Cross and the Feast of the Sorrows of Mary. As we move gradually into October and nearing the close of the Church Year, we continue to hear the Word refer to fruitfulness and its opposite: rejection and barrenness. Could there be a mysterious connection here between the Crucified and the strangest of all fruits? Are we being directed to look again at the Crucified as the paradox...his dying as fruitful life for us?

What if the strange fruit is our hearts being able to see the crucified in the twisted human suffering in the news, on our phones, and in our homes? What if it is to see with our hearts that suffering in ourselves, our griefs, our pain, our darkness?

The texts remind us we are chosen ... to have our hearts “see” in this way...not to turn away, to want to run away, but to “shine,” and when we do, God has made a home in us. To see, to accept the cross in our own lives, will make it possible for us to really see the pain of our brothers and sisters. We can’t love our neighbors unless we really see them...and we can’t really see them until we make peace with the pain in our own hearts.

The Strangest Fruit

I’m to be ‘fruitful’ you say...

I’m to show forth your life in me, yes?

*But before you now shine...you
suffered...you died.*

(I’d rather skip that part.)

Yet if you will have your way with me

I must become what I eat.

Will it hurt? I guess so.

OK.



Thank you to Associate Carol Wesley for this month's reflections.

October 4, 2026 | Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Phillipians 4:6-9, Mathew 21:33-43

Today is the end of the Season of Creation and St. Francis' feast day. It seems fitting that the gospel story centers on a vineyard. We know the story of the landowner and the vineyard. We know what happens to his servants, and his son's murder. Jesus chooses us to go out into our world, his vineyard. Jesus tells us that he will give his vineyard to those people who will produce its fruit. This is not always easy, but we know that the Spirit is always with us. We are called to be good stewards of his vineyard by doing what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, gracious...These are lovely, loving words - what have you done today to tend to God's vineyard – to this world?

October 11, 2026 | Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 25::6-10a, Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Folks, especially those are grieving, need to hear that God will destroy death forever and wipe away all their tears; sometimes we need to hear these words to have enough hope just to get through the day. How do we share this hope with those in most need in our lives? How are we Christ's hope to those in need?

October 18, 2026 | Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1Thessalonians 1:1-5b, Matthew 22:15-21

Paul and his companions tell the Thessalonians that they were God's chosen blessed in work empowered by the power of the Holy Spirit. They are giving back to God what belongs to God and shine like lights in this world. Imagine you are one of those Thessalonians. How am I building this community of hope and love where I live? How am I giving back to God what already belongs to God?

October 25, 2026 | Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 22:20-26, 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10, Matthew 22:34-40

Jesus preaches on the two commandments of loving God above all and loving your neighbor as ourselves. The Exodus reading suggests that there is nothing new in this world. The words resonate to every era, to today. How do we live out the two greatest commandments and respond to the suffering in this world today? What small thing have I done today to show my love for God and ease the plight of our suffering neighbor?