

Readings October 5, 2025

The Feast of Saint Francis

First Lesson: Job 39:1–18

- 1 'Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?
Do you observe the calving of the deer?
- 2 Can you number the months that they fulfil,
and do you know the time when they give birth,
- 3 when they crouch to give birth to their offspring,
and are delivered of their young?
- 4 Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open;
they go forth, and do not return to them.
- 5 'Who has let the wild ass go free?
Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass,
- 6 to which I have given the steppe for its home,
the salt land for its dwelling-place?
- 7 It scorns the tumult of the city;
it does not hear the shouts of the driver.
- 8 It ranges the mountains as its pasture,
and it searches after every green thing.
- 9 'Is the wild ox willing to serve you?
Will it spend the night at your crib?
- 10 Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes,
or will it harrow the valleys after you?
- 11 Will you depend on it because its strength is great,
and will you hand over your labour to it?
- 12 Do you have faith in it that it will return,
and bring your grain to your threshing-floor?
- 13 'The ostrich's wings flap wildly,
though its pinions lack plumage.
- 14 For it leaves its eggs to the earth,
and lets them be warmed on the ground,
- 15 forgetting that a foot may crush them,
and that a wild animal may trample them.
- 16 It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own;
though its labour should be in vain, yet it has no fear;
- 17 because God has made it forget wisdom,
and given it no share in understanding.
- 18 When it spreads its plumes aloft,
it laughs at the horse and its rider.

Psalm: Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and
your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

Second Lesson: Acts 4:32-35, 5:1-11

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35 They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

1 But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; 2 with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 'Ananias,' Peter asked, 'why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!' 5 Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard of it. 6 The young men came and wrapped up his body, then carried him out and buried him.

7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 Peter said to her, 'Tell me whether you and your husband sold the land for such and such a price.' And she said, 'Yes, that was the price.' 9 Then Peter said to her, 'How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.' 10 Immediately she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 And great fear seized the whole church and all who heard of these things.

Gospel: Luke 12:13-31

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

²² He said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵ And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁶ If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not keep seeking what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰ For it is the nations of the world that seek all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.