



## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

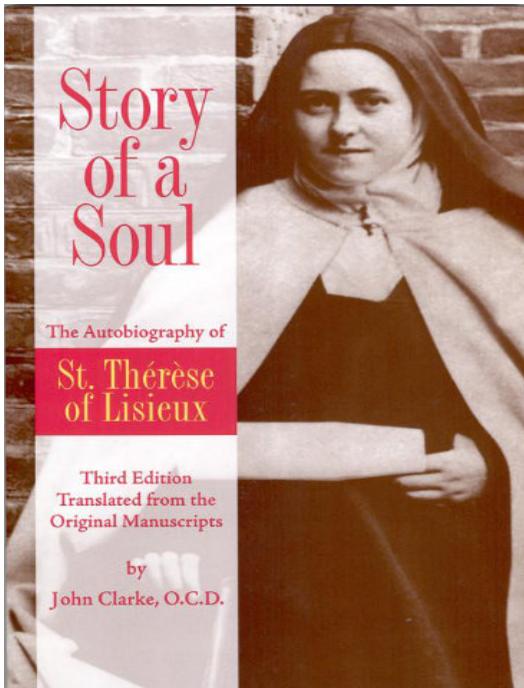
*Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.*

### FEAST OF THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX

9:30 am Wednesday, 1 Oct 2025

#### MORNING PRAYER

[From Lessor Feasts & Fasts](#)



Called “the greatest saint in modern times” by Pope Pius X, canonized by Pope Pius XI just twenty-eight years after her death, and named a Doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II, Thérèse of Lisieux has become one of the most beloved saints of the Roman Catholic Church.

From an early age, Thérèse felt called to the religious life; even as a little girl, she played at being a nun. On Christmas Eve 1886, at age fourteen, she experienced a vision of the infant Christ and what she called a “complete conversion.” Thereafter, she understood her vocation to be prayer for priests, and she began seeking admittance to the Carmelite convent in Lisieux. When she entered the order at age 17 as a Discalced Carmelite, she assumed the name Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face.

Dedicated to what she called her “little way,” she led a simple, quiet life of prayer—in particular for priests—and small acts of charity.

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Welcome and Announcements -

Deacon Dottie Gutwein

## **Opening Sentences** *(Please stand as you are able)*

Leader: Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. *(Psalm 43:3)*

## **Confession of Sin**

Deacon/Leader: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*(Short Silence may be kept.)*

**All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Deacon/Leader: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

Leader: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## **Jubilate** *(For the Gloria):*

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \* serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know this: The Lord himself is God; \* he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; \* give thanks to him and call upon his Name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; \* and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD:** *(Please be seated for the lessons)*

### **First Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Judith (8:1–8):**

Now in those days Judith heard about these things: she was the daughter of Merari son of Ox son of Joseph son of Oziel son of Elkhiah son of Ananias son of Gideon son of Raphain son of Ahitub son of Elijah son of Hilkiah son of Eliab son of Nathanael son of Salamiel son of Sarasadai son of Israel. Her husband Manasseh, who belonged to her tribe and family, had died during the barley harvest. For as he stood overseeing those who were binding sheaves in the field, he was overcome by the burning heat, and took to his bed and died in his town Bethulia. So they buried him with his ancestors in the field between Dothan and Balamon. Judith remained as a widow for three years and four months at home where she set up a tent for herself on the roof of her house. She put sackcloth around her waist and dressed in widow's clothing. She fasted all the days of her widowhood, except the day before the sabbath and the sabbath itself, the day before the new moon and the day of the new moon, and the festivals and days of rejoicing of the house of Israel. She was beautiful in appearance, and was very lovely to behold. Her husband Manasseh had left her gold and silver, men and women slaves, livestock, and fields; and she maintained this estate. No one spoke ill of her, for she feared God with great devotion.

Reader The Word of the Lord    People        Thanks be to God

**The PSALM:    Psalm 119:57-64    (read in unison)**

- 57 You only are my portion, O Lord; \*  
I have promised to keep your words.**
- 58 I entreat you with all my heart, \*  
be merciful to me according to your promise.**
- 59 I have considered my ways \*  
and turned my feet toward your decrees.**
- 60 I hasten and do not tarry \*  
to keep your commandments.**
- 61 Though the cords of the wicked entangle me, \*  
I do not forget your law.**
- 62 At midnight I will rise to give you thanks, \*  
because of your righteous judgments.**
- 63 I am a companion of all who fear you; \*  
and of those who keep your commandments.**
- 64 The earth, O Lord, is full of your love; \*  
instruct me in your statutes.**

## **Second Lesson: A Reading from Colossians (3:1-4):**

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Reader: The Word of the Lord      **People**      **Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel Lesson: Luke (21:1-4)**      *(Please stand as you are able)*

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke:**

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord      **People: Praise to you, Lord Christ**

*Reflection on readings* Deacon Dorothy Gutwein

### **The Apostles Creed:**

Deacon/Leader: Let us say together the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth; I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## The Prayers

Leader The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Leader Let us pray.

**All: Gracious Father, who called your servant Thérèse to a life of fervent prayer: Give to us that spirit of prayer and zeal for the ministry of the Gospel, that the love of Christ may be known throughout all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## The Suffrages (A)

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**R. And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**R. Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**R. For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

**R. Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## Exchange of the Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## The Offertory

Presider: Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself as a offering and sacrifice to God.

**Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise him all creatures here below**

**Praise him above ye heavenly host**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Collect for Guidance*

Leader: O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Prayer for St. Stephen's:**

Presider: Almighty God, giver of every good gift; look graciously on your church, and so guide the minds of our search committee, wardens, and vestry, who are in discernment for St. Stephen's church, Sierra Vista, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Other Intercessions and Thanksgivings:**

**Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel, Gratitude**

**Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

(All in unison)

Leader: Let us Pray

**All: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

Deacon/Leader: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

**People: We are called to love and serve.**

Deacon/Leader: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Deacon/Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all for evermore. Amen.

Continued from front:

She struggled with illness throughout her life and suffered greatly from tuberculosis before her death in 1897 at age twenty-four. At age twenty-two, just two years before her death, her prioress instructed her to write her memoirs. The Story of a Soul, as it came to be called, commended a life of “great love” rather than “great deeds,” echoing the insight of The Imitation of Christ by Thomas à Kempis, a book that had helped her to discover her vocation and develop her spiritual life. She corresponded with Roman Catholic missionaries to China and Indonesia as well as with young priests, pursuing what she saw as the mission of the Carmelites, “to form evangelical workers who will save thousands of souls whose mothers we shall be.”

Toward the end of her short life, Thérèse experienced a profound sense of abandonment by God, but even this did not shake her love for God. On the verge of death, Thérèse confessed that she had “lost her faith” and all her certainty, and was now “only capable of loving.” She experienced her sense of separation from God as something to be borne in solidarity with unbelievers. She “no longer saw” God in the light of faith, but nevertheless responded to him with a passionate love. In this experience, her youthful decision that her vocation was “to be love in the heart of the church” lost all hint of sentimentality. Her last words epitomize her “little way”: “My God, I love you.”

More from [Wikipedia the free encyclopedia](#)

[Thérèse of Lisieux](#)[2] OCD (born Marie Françoise-Thérèse Martin; 2 January 1873 – 30 September 1897), in religion Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face,[3] was a French Discalced Carmelite who is widely venerated in modern times. She is popularly known in English as the Little Flower of Jesus, or simply the Little Flower, and in French as la petite Thérèse ("Little Therese").[4][5]

Therese has been a highly influential model of sanctity for Catholics and for others because of the simplicity and practicality of her approach to the spiritual life. She is one of the most popular saints in the history of the church,[6][7] although she was obscure during her lifetime.[8] Pope Pius X called her "the greatest saint of modern times".[9][10]

Therese felt an early call to religious life and, after overcoming various obstacles, in 1888, at age 15,[11] she became a nun and joined two of her elder sisters in the cloistered Carmelite community of Lisieux in Normandy (another sister, Céline, also later joined the order). After nine years as a Carmelite nun, having fulfilled various offices such as sacristan and assistant to the novice mistress, in her last eighteen months in Carmel she fell into a night of faith, in which she is said to have felt Jesus was absent and been tormented by doubts that God existed.[8] Therese died at the age of 24 from tuberculosis.

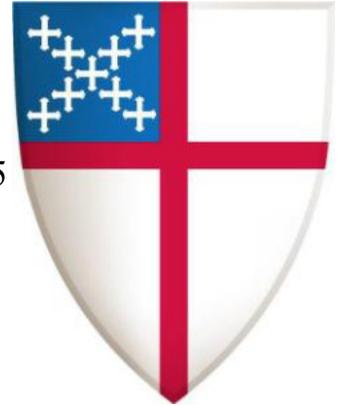
After her death, Therese became known globally through her spiritual memoir, The Story of a Soul, which explains her theology of the "Little Way". As a result of her immense popularity and reputation for holiness, she was quickly beatified and canonized by Pope Pius XI, who completed the process just 28 years after her death. In 1997, Pope John Paul II declared her a Doctor of the Church. Her feast day in the General Roman Calendar was 3 October from 1927 until it was moved in 1969 to 1 October.[12] She is well known throughout the world, with the Basilica of Lisieux being the second most popular place of pilgrimage in France after Lourdes.

[Continued online](#)

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Please leave voicemail message

### Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check  here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update    Giving Envelopes     Mail News Letter   

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) (Mid.) (Last)

Hm: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Avn. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ BrthDate \_\_\_\_\_

Adrs: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_