

Reading: Philemon 1-21

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow
soldier, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your
love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of
your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for
Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because
the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet
I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love — and I, Paul, do this as an old man,
and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child,
Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was
useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him,
that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be
of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to
do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not
something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so
that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a
beloved brother — especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in
the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has
wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am
writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even
your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my
heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will
do even more than I say.

Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I
have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is
completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but
rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two
and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you
immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south
wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites!
You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know
how to interpret the present time?"