



*Light and  
Love in the  
darkness*

## Mass of Thanksgiving SAINT TITUS BRANDSMA

### *Priest and Martyr*

Born in Bolsward (The Netherlands) in 1881, Saint Titus Brandsma joined the Carmelite Order as a young man. Ordained a priest in 1905, he earned a doctorate in philosophy in Rome.

He then taught in various schools in Holland and was named professor of philosophy and of the history of mysticism in the Catholic University of Nijmegen, where he also served as Rector Magnificus. He was noted for his constant availability to everyone.

He was a professional journalist, and in 1935 he was appointed ecclesiastical advisor to Catholic journalists. Both before and during the Nazi occupation of The Netherlands he fought, faithful to the Gospel, against the spread of Nazi ideology and for the freedom of Catholic education and of the Catholic press. For this he was arrested and sent to a succession of prisons and concentration camps where he brought comfort and peace to his fellow prisoners and did good even to his tormentors.

In 1942, after much suffering and humiliation, he was killed at Dachau. He was beatified by Pope Saint John Paul II on 3rd November, 1985. He was canonised by Pope Francis on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022.



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# Mass of Thanksgiving

## SAINT TITUS BRANDSMA

### Entrance Antiphon

This is the one who was deserted by God on the day of struggle and now wears a crown of victory for faithfulness to the Lord's commands.

### Collect

Lord our God, source and giver of life, you gave to Saint Titus the Spirit of courage to proclaim human dignity and the freedom of the Church even in the throes of degrading persecution and death. Grant us that same Spirit so that in the coming of your kingdom of justice and peace we might never be ashamed of the Gospel but be enabled to recognise your loving-kindness in all the events of our lives. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

### First Reading

(2 Timothy 2:3-13)

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

Put up with your share of difficulties, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. In the army, no soldier gets himself mixed up in civilian life, because he must be at the disposal of the man who enlisted him; or take an athlete—he cannot win any crown unless he has kept all the rules of the contest; and again, it is the working farmer who has the first claim on any crop that is harvested. Think over what I have said, and the Lord will show you how to understand it all.

Remember the Good News that I carry, 'Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David'; it is on account of this that I have my own hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal—but they cannot chain up God's news. So I bear it all for the sake of those who are

salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal glory that comes with it.

Here is a saying that you can rely on:

If we have died with him,  
then we shall live with him.

If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him.

If we disown him, then he will disown us.

We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful for he cannot disown his own self.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps. 17:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 (R.2 Mc. 1:17)*

℟ Blessed in all things be our God.

I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. ℟

The Lord is worthy of all praise:  
when I call I am saved from my foes. ℟

The waves of death rose about me;  
the torrents of destruction assailed me;  
the snares of the grave entangled me;  
the traps of death confronted me. ℟

In my anguish I called to the Lord;  
I cried to my God for help.  
From his temple he heard my voice;  
my cry came to his ears. ℟

### Gospel Acclamation

*1 Cor 1:18*

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The language of the cross may be illogical to those who are not on the way to salvation, but those of us who are on the way see it as God's power to save.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Luke 6:27-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

Be compassionate as **your Father is compassionate**?

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, we pray, O Lord,  
the sacrifice of conciliation and praise  
which we offer to your majesty  
in commemoration of the blessed Martyr Titus,  
that it may lead us to obtain pardon  
and confirm us in perpetual thanksgiving.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Communion Antiphon

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit, alleluia. *Jn 12: 24*

## Prayer after Communion

We have received your heavenly gifts,  
rejoicing at this feast day, O Lord;  
grant, we pray, that we,  
who in this divine banquet  
proclaim the Death of your Son,  
may merit to be partakers with the holy Martyrs  
in his Resurrection and his glory.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## A Eucharistic Meditation

'In the school of Carmel the mystical contemplative life is the fruit of the Eucharistic life.

The miraculous bread ministered to [Elijah] is a perfect image of that Eucharistic food, in the **strength of which we walk in life's journey here** below. The special cult of the Holy Sacrament has not been confined to Carmel, but we can say that it has always been a constant and important part of our Carmelite tradition.

This in outline is the Eucharistic tradition of Carmel. With Elijah we walk in the strength of that divine bread and since we would draw near to the life of God in prayer, we must be ever **mindful of the Saviour's command, 'Unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood, you cannot have life in you.'** Just as the communion of Elijah in the miraculous bread of the desert led him in his journey to the contemplation of God on Horeb, so too, the Holy Eucharist must lead us to the contemplation of His Holy Face. In the caves of Horeb God spoke to the Prophet by the voice of the gentle, whispering wind. The Lord was not in the storm nor in the earthquake, but in the gentle wind. So, after Communion we must contemplate under the Eucharistic species and **in the depths of our spirit; for now God passes.'**

*(Titus Brandsma, The Beauty of Carmel, Dublin: Clonmore and Reynolds, 1955, pp. 31-32)*

