

## Friday 11 October

Today is Friday the 11 October, in the 27th week of Ordinary Time.

Tenebrae, directed by Nigel Short, sing 'joyful light' from Rachmaninoff's Vespers. 'Joyful light of the holy glory of the immortal one.' As I look around me now, can I sense that light, that holy presence here, and invite God's joyful light into my life?

Today's reading is from the Gospel of Luke.

It isn't common to think in terms of demons and evil spirits these days, except in horror films. But this isn't about Halloween. It's about the inner drives and destructive compulsions that can dominate our lives and prevent us from flourishing. Wherever they come from, these are real and can leave us sorely tested.

Jesus throws down a challenge to those who doubt his power - he doesn't mince his words. Can you imagine this scene? Jesus finds himself confronted by people who believe he's a fake, who think he makes no difference in the fight against evil, or even that he contributes to it. He defends himself vigorously. There's tension, even aggression in their words and their body language. How do you respond to this?

As the words bring this scene to life again, watch Jesus and listen to him as he speaks. Do some of his words or images linger? How do you find yourself reacting to his teaching? Perhaps it raises questions for you, or a particular response.

Are you aware of an area of your life where you need his grace and power? Or perhaps in the lives of those you love, or in the world at large. Take a moment to speak to him about what's in your heart.