

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,
graciously keep from us all adversity,
so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,
we may pursue in freedom of heart
the things that are yours.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Wisdom 6:12-16

A reading from the Book of Wisdom
Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she
makes herself know to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no
trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully
grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly
leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those
who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as they
go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet
them.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 62

Response:
For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

- O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)
- So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)

- So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)
- On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadows of your wings I rejoice. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from St Paul's first letter to the
Thessalonians

We want you to be quite certain, brothers,
about those who have died, to make sure that
you do not grieve about them, like the other
people who have no hope. We believe that
Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be
the same for those who have died in Jesus:
God will bring them with him.

We can tell you this from the Lord's own
teaching, that any of us who are left alive
until the Lord's coming will not have any
advantage over those who have died. At the
trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel
will call out the command and the Lord
himself will come down from heaven; those
who have died in Christ will be the first to
rise, and then those of us who are still alive
will be taken up in the clouds, together with
them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we
shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such
thoughts as these you should comfort one
another.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Stay awake and stand ready,
because you do not know the hour
when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 25: 1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: "The
kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten
bridesmaids took their lamps and went to
meet the bridegroom. Five of them were
foolish and five were sensible: the foolish
ones did take their lamps, but they brought
no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks
of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom
was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell
asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, 'The
bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.'
At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and
trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones
said to the sensible ones, 'Give us some of
your oil: our lamps are going out.' But they
replied, 'There may not be enough for us
and for you; you had better go to those who
sell it and buy some for yourselves.' They
had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom
arrived. Those who were ready went in with
him to the wedding hall and the door closed.
The other bridesmaid arrived later. 'Lord,
Lord,' they said 'open the door for us.' But
he replied, 'I tell you solemnly, I do not know
you.' So stay awake, because you do not

know either the day or the hour."
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all bow during the next three lines)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord,
upon the sacrificial gifts offered here,
that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of
your Son,
we may honour it with loving devotion.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I
shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he
gives me repose,
near restful waters he leads me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord,
we give you thanks and beseech your mercy,
that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit,
the grace of integrity may endure
in those your heavenly power has entered.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

12 NOVEMBER 2017

Sunday Message

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Green • Psalter week 4

WAKE UP!



In many countries, weddings are big business. There is now a whole class of people whose sole occupation is arranging nuptial occasions: they look after everything from the church to the requirements of the venue, the dinner menu, the band for the dance and so on. Nothing is left to chance.

Very often, the bride's mother will fulfil this function, so the chances of anything going wrong would be pretty slim. The idea of attendants falling asleep on the job simply would not be entertained.

But that is precisely what happens in the parable Jesus tells to his disciples in the gospel reading today. It may be that the bridegroom was engaged in the final negotiations with the bride's father, after which he and the bride would go in procession to the groom's family home. The wise bridesmaids anticipate that there may be a delay and make provision for this by bringing extra oil for their lamps. It does not occur to the others that there may be a problem and they are caught out by events. The first rejection they experience is at the hands of their companions who realise that sharing their oil will only leave all ten short and unable to complete the journey. The second time is when they arrive at the locked door to be told that the owner of the house does not recognise them. The point is that their plight is of their own making: they failed to take responsibility for their task and so the outcome is their own fault.

As we approach the end of the Church's liturgical year, our reading of Matthew's Gospel at our Sunday Eucharist is also coming to its conclusion. The teaching of Jesus now looks forward to the coming of the Son of Man, represented in the parable by the bridegroom. This will involve our giving an account of ourselves, so even if we do not think that the Lord will finally come in glory in our lifetime, it will affect us individually sometime. We are warned that we know neither the day nor the hour, so we are advised to Be Ready! Stay Awake! ■

DO

When your alarm rings in the morning (or you wake up in some other way), thank the Lord for a new day and ask for the grace to be prepared for whatever happens.



LEARN

In the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament), God is sometimes described as the husband of Israel.

In the Christian Scriptures (the New Testament), Christ is presented as the bridegroom.

The bridal procession mentioned in the parable would involve the bridegroom leading the bride from her family home to his.

The style of writing in the bible which refers to the end of time is known as *apocalyptic*.

SAY

Your love, Lord, is even better than life!

REFLECT

We may feel rather sorry for the "foolish" bridesmaids: after all, anyone can make a mistake. But it is a parable about personal responsibility, about thinking ahead and not relying on other people to bail us out of a situation which is of our own making. It is also saying that we do not know when the Lord is likely to come into our lives: not just at the end of our time here on earth, but in the daily events of what we probably consider our very ordinary existence. Some people use a helpful motto which says *Keep it in the day*. Yesterday has gone, tomorrow is not yet here: all we have is today, so let's make the best use of the time we have been given. Let's thank God that we have another day and live it as best we can. ■