

## The 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 12, 2017

### First Reading - Wisdom 6:12-16

Resplendent and unfading is wisdom,  
and she is readily perceived by those who love her,  
and found by those who seek her.  
She hastens to make herself known  
in anticipation of their desire;  
Whoever watches for her at dawn  
shall not be disappointed,  
for he shall find her sitting by his gate.  
For taking thought of wisdom  
is the perfection of prudence,  
and whoever for her sake keeps vigil  
shall quickly be free from care;  
because she makes her own rounds,  
seeking those worthy of her,  
and graciously appears to them in the ways,  
and meets them with all solicitude.

### Psalm 63

*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

O God, you are my God whom I seek;  
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts  
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary  
to see your power and your glory,  
For your kindness is a greater good than life;  
my lips shall glorify you.

Thus will I bless you while I live;  
lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.  
As with the riches of a banquet  
shall my soul be satisfied,  
and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

I will remember you upon my couch,  
and through the night-watches I will meditate on you:  
You are my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.

### Words from our Holy Father

The Bridegroom is the Lord, and the time of waiting for his arrival is the time he gives to us, to all of us, before his Final Coming; ... it is a time of watchfulness; a time in which we must keep alight the lamps of faith, hope and charity, a time in which to keep our heart open to goodness, beauty and truth. ... What he asks of us is to be ready for the encounter . . . which means being able to see the signs of his presence, keeping our faith alive with prayer, with the sacraments, and taking care not to fall asleep so as to not forget about God. ... Let us not fall asleep!

-Pope Francis, Episcopal Ordination, 11/9/15

### Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware,  
brothers and sisters,  
about those who have fallen asleep,  
so that you may not grieve like the rest,  
who have no hope.  
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,  
so too will God, through Jesus,  
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.  
Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,  
that we who are alive,  
who are left until the coming of the Lord,  
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.  
For the Lord himself, with a word of command,  
with the voice of an archangel  
and with the trumpet of God,  
will come down from heaven,  
and the dead in Christ will rise first.  
Then we who are alive, who are left,  
will be caught up together with them in the clouds  
to meet the Lord in the air.  
Thus we shall always be with the Lord.  
Therefore, console one another with these words.

### Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told his disciples this parable:  
"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins  
who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.  
Five of them were foolish and five were wise.  
The foolish ones, when taking their lamps,  
brought no oil with them,  
but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.  
Since the bridegroom was long delayed,  
they all became drowsy and fell asleep.  
At midnight, there was a cry,  
'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'  
Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.  
The foolish ones said to the wise,  
'Give us some of your oil,  
for our lamps are going out.'  
But the wise ones replied,  
'No, for there may not be enough for us and you.  
Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.'  
While they went off to buy it,  
the bridegroom came  
and those who were ready  
went into the wedding feast with him.  
Then the door was locked.  
Afterwards the other virgins came and said,  
'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!'  
But he said in reply,  
'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'  
Therefore, stay awake,  
for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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**Find Us Ready**

*Find us ready, Lord, not standing still.  
Find us working and loving and doing your will.  
Find us ready, Lord, faithful in love,  
building the kingdom that's here and above,  
building the kingdom of mercy and love.*

We must wait for the Lord  
for we know not the time.  
So here and today  
we gather and pray,  
discovering love in our midst.

We must make straight the path,  
God's love revealed.  
With sin cast aside,  
God's mercy alive,  
fear not for here is your God.

Tom Booth

**Responsorial Psalm: 63**

*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord,  
Thirsting for you, my God.  
My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord,  
Thirsting for you, my God. Thirsting for you, my God.*

**Open My Eyes**

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.  
Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.

Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.  
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.  
Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

Jesse Manibusen

**“Ground Rules” for Small Group Faith Sharing**

- Maintain confidentiality – “Whatever happens in small group stays in small group.”
- Judgment-free zone – You don’t have to agree with everyone, but you have to have respect for everyone.
- No “shut downs” or “put downs” – See Christ in one another, BE Christ to one another.
- Don’t be a “discussion hog” – Be sure that everyone that wants to have a chance to share.
- Leave room for the Spirit – Silence is OK! Not everyone has to share.
- Practice active listening – Avoid interrupting, fidgeting, criticizing, lecturing, or thinking of what you’re going to say while another person is speaking.
- Questions are a guide - You do not have to answer all of them or go in order.
- Be open – God is doing amazing things!

**Questions for Reflection on the Gospel**

1. What word, image, or phrase stands out to you from the Gospel?
2. In the Gospel we hear of the virgins who fell asleep waiting for the bridegroom. In what ways are you “asleep”? How can you “wake up”?
3. What would have happened if the foolish women had not risked missing the Lord by going after the oil they wanted but had just waited for him instead, without oil? What would have happened if their Lord had found them in darkness but also in humility, not trying to climb to safety on the backs of others (demanding oil from the others), but just acknowledging their mistakes and hoping in the Lord? Does you think that their Lord would have cast them out?
4. *The Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, one of the major documents to come out of the Second Vatican Council says, “We do not know the time for the consummation of the earth and of humanity, nor do we know how all things will be transformed. As deformed by sin, the shape of this world will pass away; but we are taught that God is preparing a new dwelling place and a new earth where justice will abide, and whose blessedness will answer and surpass all the longings for peace which spring up in the human heart.” How does this passage make you feel? Hopeful? Anxious? Something else? Why? How is this connected to the Gospel?
5. In his quote on the reverse of this page, Pope Francis mentions keeping our hearts open to “goodness, beauty and truth.” How would that help us see signs of Christ’s presence in the world?
6. Would you live differently if you thought “the end time” was right around the corner—as the Thessalonians seemed to in the second reading? If so, what would you change?

**Petitions**

Our response: Lord, find us ready.

**Closing Prayer**

Lord, while “we do not know the time for the consummation of the earth and of humanity, nor do we know how all things will be transformed,” we cling to you, knowing you keep us in the shadow of your wings. Open our eyes to see your presence in the world around us, open our ears to hear your voice calling us to wholeness, and open our hearts that we may know the answer to our longings for peace. We ask through the Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.