Thirty Second Sunday of the Year A



Entrance Antiphon: **Let my prayer come into your presence.**
Incline you ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

Every Christian is meant to be a bearer of the light of Christ to a darkened world. But like the foolish bridesmaids in today's Gospel, we allow the light of Christ to grow dim, or even to go out altogether. But Christ will help us to keep his light burning brightly.

Lord Jesus, you call us to keep the light of faith burning brightly.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you call us to keep the light of hope burning brightly.
Christ have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you call us to keep the light of love burning brightly.
Lord have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

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.

Let us pray:

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

A reading from the book of Wisdom Wisdom 6:12-16

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 known 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 them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 62:2-8

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 shadow of your wings I rejoice. **R/.**

SECOND READING:

A reading from St Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians Thessalonians 4:13-18

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.**

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

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, Lord.**

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 was closed. The other bridesmaids 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.**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory:
Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offering:
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.**

Preface:
The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.
For out of compassion for the waywardness that is ours,
he humbled himself and was born of the Virgin;
by the passion of the Cross
he freed us from unending death,
and by rising from the dead he gave us life eternal.
And so, with the Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The mystery of faith: **Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

Communion Antiphon: **The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of bread.**

Reflection: Gaining and losing

There is a way of losing by gaining. You can win an argument but lose a friend. Through competition and promotion I may advance in my profession, but in terms of relationships I am impoverished. My energies are so focused on efficiency and success that I haven't time to grow emotionally and to develop my capacity for relationships. In one's drive to attain power, a person may sacrifice friendship and loyalty, so much so that one ends up alone. Lord, let me never forget your haunting words: 'What good will it do you to gain the whole world if you lose your soul?'

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.**

Final Blessing:
The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
May Almighty God bless you:
the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
The Mass is ended; go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer: Lord Jesus, in the days of your ministry, you listened to women and followed their counsel. You sent a woman to tell the news of your resurrection to your followers. Grant us the insight to let the fruits of your Holy Spirit flow freely through every member of the people of God, so that we may all share in the life you have gained for us. We ask this through the intercession of all your saints who died longing for the coming of your reign on earth. Amen.