

Your Lourdes Sunday Liturgy at Home
32nd Sunday in the Church Year
November 8, 2020

“she [Wisdom] is readily perceived by those who love her,
and found by those who seek her....

Whoever watches for her at dawn....shall find her....”

– – Wisdom 6:12, 14

“Therefore, stay awake,
for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

– Matthew 25:13

The reign of God is a B.Y.O.O. kind of affair....Bring Your Own Oil. You can't barter, borrow or buy it. You've got to bring it....bring it by living Gospel values and hoping for God's mercy for those places where you fall short. Our Gospel also tells us to be prepared. Are you ready?

Furthermore, our selection from the Hebrew Scriptures is chosen from Wisdom – in the Greek translation of the Old Testament Wisdom is *Sophia*; in the original Hebrew, it's *Chochma*. In either case, it's a feminine noun, thus our passage today says, “She hastens to make herself known” (Wisdom 6:13). We could all use a whole lot of Wisdom in our lives these days, and she promised it if only we would keep vigil and search for her, for she is looking for us.

In the parable of the foolish and wise maidens, the Matthean Jesus assures us that hope is more than holy abandon; hope is a hard worker who translates her relationship with God into a deliberate, daily preparedness for his ultimate and unexpected appearance. Without oil in their lamps, the foolish maidens were not ready to welcome their bridegroom.

These women represent people who think the second appearance of Jesus seems so far off that it is of little consequence. They haven't been aware of the Christ in all his many comings, great and little. They have been slow to recognize Christ in God's least ones and to serve their needs. The ones without oil have not taken to heart Jesus' challenge to be the light of the world. They have not spoken out

against injustice, violence, greed and dishonesty. They have often settled into apathy. They have procrastinated, their service and their witness to Gospel values until a more convenient time.

Those with oil enough to light their lamps and welcome the Lord are not perfect, but they have been persistent in their efforts at goodness, at caring and tending the needs of others. They have not always shone as brightly as they might, but they have never given up or turned away from the challenge to lighten the load of God's least ones. They have not always been outspoken against evil and injustice, but they have prayed to God to be able to find their voice and have continued to ask God for the grace to persevere. These are the wise and hopeful ones who call us to follow their lead in preparing for the God who comes.

This parable is about being prepared. Taking the story at face value we can guess that the wise virgins were the ones who knew and cared about what they were doing. They wanted to be a part of the celebration and did everything necessary to be able to participate fully. It didn't matter that they fell asleep, they were confident that whenever it started they would be ready — they had no worries to interfere with their siesta.

What about the others? What characterizes them as foolish? In Matthew 7, foolish people are the ones who heard Jesus' words and didn't bother to act on them. That sounds a lot like not bothering to procure the oil you'll need to relight your torch. The sleep of the foolish just might have been a sign of their general apathy. Their paltry preparation matched their lack of passion for the event itself. They were along for the ride; if the trip got too costly, they could find other diversions — that's how they had lived their lives.

However, parts of this story sound seriously non-evangelical. Why wouldn't the wise virgins share what they had with the others? Why are we praising their stinginess?

Jesus says that wisdom consists wisdom consists in putting his words into practice. The wise young women's oil symbolized their store of experience of living the Gospel. Their discipleship prepared them to enjoy the party that was to come. Living the Gospel is not

like hoarding oil or packing a backpack. It's more like riding a bike, learning a new language or being generous. You practice until it comes naturally. For the foolish to beg "lend us some of your oil of preparation" was as absurd as saying "Give me a bit of your balance so I can ride this bike." There are some things each person must do for her or himself and no amount of example from others can make up for their lack of action.

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Prelude: Sing along with "[I am a] Friend of God" – Israel Houghton & Michael Gungor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUn5H6N2xa4>

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

Lord Jesus, you told the disciples to be ready for what is to come:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you taught them how to live wisely in the present:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to live today with tomorrow in mind:

Lord, have mercy.

Opening Prayer

Brighten your Church, O God,
with the promise of your kingdom
and waken our hearts to its light.
Bid us hasten with faith undimmed
to greet the bridegroom's return
and to enter the wedding feast.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,^{[[L]]}_{SEP;}
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever. Let the church say – Amen.

Listen to “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” sung by Corey Harris: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hcd84ki1lqq>

Then move on to this Sunday’s readings:

**Readings for the Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 8, 2020**

1st Reading – Wisdom 6:12-16

¹² Resplendent and unfading is wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her.

¹³ She hastens to make herself known in anticipation of their desire;

¹⁴ Whoever watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed, for he shall find her sitting by his gate.

¹⁵ For taking thought of wisdom is the perfection of prudence, and whoever for her sake keeps vigil shall quickly be free from care;

¹⁶ 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.

The Word of the Lord. . . . Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm – 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

R. (2b) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

² O God, you are my God whom I seek;^{[L] [SEP]}

for you my flesh pines

and my soul thirsts^{[L] [SEP]} like the earth,

parched, lifeless and without water.^{[L] [SEP]}

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

³ Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary^{[L] [SEP]}

to see your power and your glory,^{[L] [SEP]}

⁴ For your kindness is a greater good than life;^{[L] [SEP]}

my lips shall glorify you.^{[L] [SEP]}

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

⁵ Thus will I bless you while I live;^{[L] [SEP]}

lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.^{[L] [SEP]}

⁶ As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied,^{[L] [SEP]}

and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.^{[L] [SEP]}

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

⁷ I will remember you upon my couch,^{[L][SEP]}
and through the night-watches I will meditate on you:^{[L][SEP]}

⁸ You are my help, and in the shadow
of your wings I shout for joy.^{[L][SEP]}

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

2nd Reading – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.....Thanks be to God.

Gospel – Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told his disciples this parable:^{[L][SEP]}¹ “The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

² Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

³ The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them,

⁴ but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.

⁵ Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶ At midnight, there was a cry, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

⁷ Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.

⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

⁹ 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.’

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Afterwards the other virgins came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’

¹² But he said in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’

¹³ Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.....Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection Prompts:

First, sing along with “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” sung by Mississippi Fred McDowell:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqrBhyvpBII>

- ❖ How do you keep the light of hope trimmed and burning?
- ❖ How would you describe your own search for God in our world today?
- ❖ Where are and how you find God?

Meditation Prompts:

First, draw the drapes, turn off the lights, and light one candle and listen to this: “Light One Candle” by Peter, Paul & Mary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iXadyBSiHQ>

LIGHT ONE CANDLE – PETER YARROW (1986)

Light one candle for the Maccabee children^{[L][SEP]}
With thanks that their light didn't die^{[L][SEP]}
Light one candle for the pain they endured^{[L][SEP]}
When their right to exist was denied^{[L][SEP]}
Light one candle for the terrible sacrifice^{[L][SEP]}
Justice and freedom demand^{[L][SEP]}
But light one candle for the wisdom to know^{[L][SEP]}
When the peacemaker's time is at hand

Refrain: Don't let the light go out!^{[L][SEP]}
It's lasted for so many years!^{[L][SEP]}
Don't let the light go out!^{[L][SEP]}
Let it shine through our hope and our tears. (SING TWICE)

Light one candle for the strength that we need^{[L][SEP]}
To never become our own foe^{[L][SEP]}
And light one candle for those who are suffering^{[L][SEP]}
Pain we learned so long ago^{[L][SEP]}

Light one candle for all we believe in^[L]_[SEP]
That anger not tear us apart^[L]_[SEP]
And light one candle to find us together^[L]_[SEP]
With peace as the song in our hearts

Don't let the light go out!

Then move into this week's prayers of the faithful.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS – November 8, 2020
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Presider: Order our steps, O God, ^[L]_[SEP]lest our feet stray from the places where we met Thee, as we honor Black Catholic History Month.

Worship Leader

1. For this country, that the leaders hear the cries of the poor and neglected for justice and dignity. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.** (RESPOND: **Order our steps, O God.**)
2. For strength to imitate the Black Catholic pioneers, especially Sister Thea Bowman, Father Augustus Tolton, Mother Henriette de Lille, and Daniel Rudd. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
3. For a world that nurtures dreams of a better future, and “sings a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.” We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
4. For inspiration from the saints of African descent, especially St. Martin de Porres, St. Josephine Bakhita, St. Benedict the African, St. Augustine, and St. Monica. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
5. For all who seek healing from substance use disorders and mental health issues, that they find help and mutual support. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
6. For all medical researchers and public health officials, that they persevere in seeking vaccines and medications to combat

the corona virus pandemic. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**

7. St. Francis, you were a spendthrift lover of partying, but through God's grace you became a lover of poor and of all God's creation. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
8. For all Veterans in thanksgiving for their sacrifices and for all active duty loved ones in the military and their families. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
9. For all those who are separated from us by infirmity, especially those listed in our bulletin, and for all those living with HIV and AIDS, that they know our community's care for them. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
10. For all the dead, that they see God face to face, especially Chris Rutherford and Wilbert David Sweet for whom this Mass is being celebrated. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
11. Please share any intention you have [PAUSE.....] as well as all our own needs. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**

Presider: God of the past, present and future, we ask you to help us look with courage at what lies ahead. Give us the wisdom and vision to live our lives with purpose. Grant us courage to trust in what is yet to come. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus. LET THE CHURCH SAY – AMEN. LET THE CHURCH SAY – AMEN!

Sing or recite "The Lord's Prayer."

Then read this prayer reflectively,

Prayer of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ
For Times without Eucharist

Once again, dear God, I have neither bread, nor wine, nor altar, I will raise myself beyond these symbols. I will make the whole earth my altar and on it will offer You all the labors and sufferings of the

world. Over there, on the horizon, the sun has just touched with light the outermost fringe of the eastern sky. Once again, beneath this moving sheet of fire, the living surface of the earth wakes and trembles, and once again begins its fearful travail. I will place on my paten, O God, the harvest to be won by this renewal of labor. Into my chalice I shall pour all the sap, which is to be pressed out this day from the earth's fruits.

– **Hymn of the Universe**, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ

Then, behold “God Has a Plan” sung by Robert E. Person

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A08YIDCwitQ>

Closing Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, drive from us whatever things that are harmful. Make us ready in both body and mind to accomplish your will in perfect freedom. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Closing Hymn

Sing along with “Hold Up the Light” by the New Jersey Mass Choir

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uH93vb39s_s