

# THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Lord God,  
you speak to us in our hearts  
and one day will call us  
to live with you forever.  
Do not let us be deaf  
to your voice  
nor let your final call  
take us by surprise.  
With your help, may we  
keep on praying every day.  
And, guided by  
your Holy Spirit,  
may we learn how to choose  
the right things to do  
and avoid the bad.  
We make this prayer to you  
through Jesus, your Son,  
who lives with you,  
forever and ever.

## FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The focus of both readings is wisdom. It is common in the Old Testament to find wisdom as an expression of God. Here in this reading, we see wisdom praised as the gift which lasts forever. As the presence of God, she is available to all who seek her. She guides their ways to the good.

The Gospel takes this poetic text and puts it into a tangible parable. The focus of the parable is seen in the last line, "Always be ready, for you do not know at what hour the Lord is coming." From the first reading and the parable, we know that being ready comes from wisdom.

## FIRST READING: *Wisdom 6:12-16*

*This is a reading from the book of Wisdom.*

Wisdom is wonderful and everlasting.  
Anyone who wants to have wisdom  
will find her if they love her and look for her.  
Wisdom is always ready to help anyone  
who wants her.  
People who have wisdom  
know what is good and right.  
They are free from worry.  
Wisdom will lead their thoughts  
to what is good,  
and she will guide them in all that they do.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSE: *Psalm 63*

RESPONSE:

I long for you, I long for  
you, I long for you my God.

VERSES:

1. O God you are my God, I  
2. O God you are my God, you're  
1. give you thanks and praise your name.  
2. all I need to guide my way.

to Response

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Al - ways be read - y for you do not know when the  
Lord will come. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, when the  
Lord will come, when the Lord will come, when the Lord will come, when the  
Lord will come.

(Fine)



## GOSPEL: *Matthew 25:1-13*

*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*

One day Jesus told his disciples this parable:

"This is what the reign of God is like.

One evening there was a wedding,  
and ten bridesmaids came to wait  
for the bride and bridegroom.

Now five of these bridesmaids were very silly.

They brought their lamps  
but didn't bring enough oil to keep them burning.

The other five were very wise.

They brought enough oil to last all night long.

"The groom was late,  
and so all ten bridesmaids fell asleep.  
But at midnight, someone shouted,

'Wake up! The bridegroom is here!  
Come out to meet him!'

"The bridesmaids woke up and got their lamps ready.  
The five foolish ones said to the others,

'Give us some of your oil  
because our lamps are going out.'

"But the wise bridesmaids said,

'We can't give you any  
because there won't be enough  
for our lamps and yours, too.  
But hurry, go into town and buy some.'

"While the foolish bridesmaids were gone,  
the bridegroom came,  
and everyone went into the wedding feast.  
When the five foolish bridesmaids came back,  
they couldn't get in  
because the door was already locked.

["They called in, 'Open the door for us!'  
But the bridegroom said,  
'No, I don't know you!'"]

Then Jesus said,

"Always be ready,  
for you do not know when the Lord will come!"

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

[ ] Reader may omit text that appears in brackets.

## REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

Ask the children what they heard.

- What is the story about?
- When did it take place?
- Who was there?
- What were they doing?
- What time did the bridegroom come?

You will need to explain to the children that it was customary for the groom to come to the home of the bride and take her to his home where the feast was usually held. Frequently, the bridesmaids waited for the groom and accompanied him to the home of the bride and back for the feast. Everyone went in the wedding procession with lighted oil lamps. So everyone had to bring enough oil to keep their lamps burning for a long time. It should be explained that locking the doors of the house meant using wooden bars—it was not a simple chore. Once the doors were shut they weren't opened again.

Now to return to the story:

- What do you remember about the ten bridesmaids?
- Why were five of them called "wise bridesmaids"?

Help the children see the difference between knowledge and wisdom.

- What did Jesus say after he told this story?
- What does he want us to do now from this story?