

# THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Most generous God,  
we cannot count  
the wonderful gifts you have  
poured into our lives.  
Above all, you have given us  
your Son, Jesus,  
who has shown us the way  
to our home with you.  
Make us wise  
in using these gifts  
so that they will be  
for the benefit of everyone.  
Open our hearts to the world  
so that we may spread  
the Good News about Jesus,  
who lives with you,  
forever and ever.

## FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Since it is difficult to harmonize our  
two readings, we will begin with the Gospel.

We are nearing the end of the liturgical  
year, and the Gospel, like last week's,  
directs our thoughts to the end of time.  
Last week the focus was vigilance. This  
week and next it is "rendering our  
account." God has given each of us  
talents, grace, a vocation in life. It is clear  
from the Gospel that we are meant to use  
those talents for the good of the reign of  
God. The importance of the parable is  
that our reward, "Come be happy with  
me," is not dependent on the size of our  
talents, but on our use of what we have  
been given.

The woman in the first reading is  
praised because she lived her vocation as  
wife and mother in a most charitable and  
noble way. Each of us is called to do that.

## FIRST READING:

*Proverbs 31:10, 12, 20, 26, 28, 31.*

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

A woman who is good  
is more precious than jewels.  
She does not hurt others;  
she does good all the days of her life.

She works for the poor  
and helps those in need.  
She speaks with wisdom  
and is kind to everyone.

Her husband and children call her blessed  
and tell her how wonderful she is.

May she be rewarded for all that she does,  
and may everyone who knows her  
sing her praises.

*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  
to Response  
1. give you thanks and praise your name.  
2. all I need to guide my way.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

(finger snap) Come, be hap - py with me.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Be hap - py with me. (Fine)



## GOSPEL: *Matthew 25:14-30*

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

Jesus told this parable to his disciples:

"Once there was a man going on a long journey.

He called the servants together  
and put each one in charge of some money.

One of the servants received \$100,  
another received \$200 and another \$500.

The one who received \$500 went out quickly  
and put the money to good use  
and earned another \$500 for the owner.

["The one who received \$200 earned \$200 more.

But the man who had \$100, buried it in the ground.]

"When the owner came home from the journey,  
the first servant came and said,

'Here is your money.

You gave me \$500 to take care of,  
but I have earned \$500 more for you.'

"The owner said,

'You are a good and faithful servant.

Because you have done so well,  
I will put you in charge of even more.  
Come, be happy with me.'

["Then the second servant came and said,

'Here is your money.

You gave me \$200 to take care of,  
but I have earned \$200 more for you.'

"The owner said,

'You are a good and faithful servant.

Because you have done so well,  
I will put you in charge of even more.  
Come, be happy with me.'

"Finally the man who had been given the \$100  
came and said,

'I know that you are a very strict man  
and that you always want more money than you give.  
I was afraid of losing your money,  
so I buried it in the ground until you came back.  
So here is the \$100 you gave me.'

"But the owner said,

'You are a lazy man! You knew that I wanted you  
to earn more money for me, and, yet,  
you only buried it in the ground. You are not  
a good servant, and you cannot work for me anymore!'

"Then the owner said to another servant,

'Take the \$100 from this man,  
and give it to the man who already has earned \$500.  
Then take this lazy man out to be punished!'" ]

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

What did you hear?

Center the discussion on the talents and gifts of the children and people they know. Broaden their understanding of "talents." In the Gospel it meant money. The message of the parable, however, is broader than that. What has God given us? What has God asked us to do? Some people are called to teach, others to cook, others to counsel people, others to preach. People are called to be mothers, sisters, fathers, priests, brothers, single people.

Children too have their gifts and talents. They are filled with God's grace. Center the discussion on the talents and gifts they have and what they can do at their age to use what God has given them.

Help them remember the words that we will hear when we use God's grace wisely.

"Come, be happy with me."

Next week's reading will make this even more understandable.