

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done
and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us..... Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

THE GLORIA

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.

OPENING PRAYER

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.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Wisdom 6: 12 -16

A reading from the book of Wisdom

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 meet them.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 62:2-8

R. For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

1. 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]
2. 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]
3. 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]
4. 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

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (*Shorter form 4:13-14)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

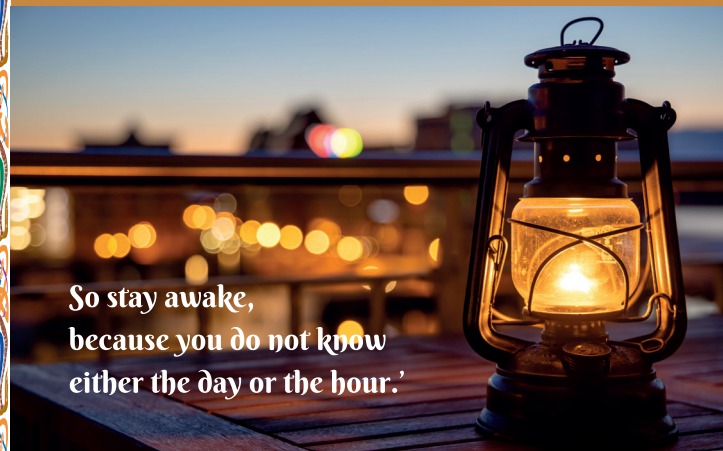
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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



THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 12th November 2023

We are called to follow Jesus.
We are called in a way that will prepare
us for heaven and our eternal life of friendship with God.



So stay awake,
because you do not know
either the day or the hour.'



The parable of the bridesmaids is unique to Matthew. In first-century Palestine it was custom for the bridegroom to be escorted to the home of the bride by the bridesmaids. Then the bridesmaids would escort the couple to the house where the wedding and the party would take place. We hear of the different levels of preparedness of the bridesmaids, those who took extra oil for the lamps and those who "took no oil with them". One can speculate as to what the oil in the lamps represents: the inner wisdom we know we should trust but are afraid to, that deep awareness of God's indwelling presence, a sense of fulfilment that one receives from doing acts of justice and mercy? The "foolish" were lacking in evidence of such deeds and so, the Lord does not know them. But to hear that they were then "shut out" is horrifying; the disappointment can be felt off the page.

Sometimes, we too find ourselves in this "foolish" position, and when that happens the challenge is not to let ourselves close down. It is during such times we have the opportunity to gain some insight or wisdom. We learn much from these experiences, unpleasant though they may be. If this parable leaves us confused, even a bit shaken, then, good! This is the parable doing its thing. Jesus was certainly not a boring teacher and at this stage of the Gospel, as he is about to be arrested, it is not surprising that he is warning those around him to have enough oil for their lamps. What might the oil in the lamp represent for you? How can you ensure a steady supply?

Jane Mellett

Adapted from "The Deep End – A Journey through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Matthew" (Messenger Publications, Dublin, 2002).