



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Sunday 8th November 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

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

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: We are coming to the end of the liturgical year (only two more Sundays to go!) and the Gospels invite us to think about the end of time – the Second Coming of Jesus. This will be at a time we do not know, but Jesus isn't trying to "catch us out." He wants us to be ready. Let's pray today that our "lamps are lit", and begin by praising God and asking for his mercy, as we say:

Gloria

A: 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

L: 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, God, for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:1-13

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.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

Remember how, when Jesus tells parables, everything "stands for" something else? This parable is obviously about being ready for the end – whether the end of our life or the end of time. We should be like the sensible bridesmaids, with plenty of oil for our lamps. But what does that oil stand for? Perhaps last week's gospel – the Beatitudes – can give us an answer. The oil is our store of meekness and kindness, compassion and peacemaking, search for justice, purity of heart and poverty of spirit. By living according to the Beatitudes, we store up this "oil", so that our lamps of faith are always lit, and always ready. Have a think about how much oil is in your lamp today!

For our Younger Friends

When you are looking forward to something, you get ready for it. Remember how, when you are going on holiday, you have your bags and toys and books all ready *days* beforehand? And how when it is Christmas, or your Birthday, you cannot wait and have everything ready *ages* ahead?! Today Jesus tells a story about looking forward to meeting him – just like a bridesmaid waiting for the groom to arrive at a wedding: the sensible bridesmaids in the story were so excited – they had everything ready, and even spare oil for their lamps, just in case. If we are looking forward to meeting Jesus, we will be ready for him, so let's think about Jesus today, and what it will be like to meet him one day.

If gathering as a family, perhaps now continue to discuss what this Gospel passage means to

you. If alone, think about what key message you take from the Scriptures today.

Profession of Faith

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.

Intercessions

L: Let us think of our prayers for the world and the Church this Sunday.

L: We pray on this Remembrance Sunday for all who gave their lives in war or conflict, for the sake of justice, peace and the protection of the innocent. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for all the innocent victims of warfare, terrorism and violence in our world today, that there may be an end to such injustice. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for the Church, that Pope Francis, Bishop John and all who lead us may help us to be ready to meet the Lord. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

L: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

L: 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.

A: Amen.

Before Spiritual Communion

L: Most loving Father, when your children were scattered afar by sin, through the Blood of your Son and the power of the Spirit, you gathered them again to yourself, that a people, formed as one by the unity of the Trinity, made the body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit, might, to the praise of your manifold wisdom, be manifest as the Church. At the Last Supper your Son showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Spiritual Communion

A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

Thanksgiving Psalm

L: For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

A: For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

L: 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.

A: For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

L: 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.

A: For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

L: 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.

A: For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

L: 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.

A: For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

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.

A: Amen.

L: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

A: Amen.

L: Let us bless the Lord!

A: Thanks be to God!