33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

15 NOVEMBER 2026 • YEAR A (II)

COLLECT

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,
the constant gladness of being devoted to you,
for it is full and lasting happiness
to serve with constancy
the author of all that is good.
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.

FIRST READING

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 128(127):1-2. 3. 4-5. R 1a

R. Blessed are all who fear the Lord.

Blessed are all who fear the Lord,
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be blessed and prosper. **R.**

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive
around your table. **R.**

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the husband who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Sion.
May you see Jerusalem prosper
all the days of your life! **R.**

R. Blessed are all who fear the Lord.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, ‘There is peace and security’, then sudden destruction will come upon them as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers and sisters, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia. Abide in me, and I in you, says the Lord. Whoever abides in me bears much fruit. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 'Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, "Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, "Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours." But his master answered him, "You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."'

REFLECTION

The talents in Jesus' parable are immense sums of money, entrusted with astonishing generosity. Before the servants have achieved anything, the master places his property in their hands. His first act is one of trust. The question is not whether each receives the same, but what each does with what has been given.

Saint Gregory the Great says that a gift is hidden in the earth when it becomes absorbed in earthly concerns and is never used for another person's good. The third servant is not condemned because his gift is small. He is condemned because fear persuades him that safety lies in doing nothing. He protects the gift so carefully that it never becomes fruitful.

The first reading shows what fruitfulness looks like in ordinary life: willing hands, faithful work, wisdom, and an open hand to the poor. These are not spectacular achievements. They are the steady habits through which a life becomes a blessing. Grace is not preserved by keeping it untouched; it grows as it is shared.

Saint Paul calls us children of light and children of the day. Staying awake is not anxious speculation about when the Lord will come. It is learning to recognise that the present moment already belongs to God, and that the gifts placed in our hands are meant to serve his kingdom now.

The parable therefore asks us to look again at what we may have dismissed as too ordinary or too small to matter: our time, our attention, our work, our compassion, and our faith. Placed at the service of love, these become the treasure which the master receives with joy.

St Gregory the Great, Homily 9 on the Gospels.