32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 8 NOVEMBER 2026 • YEAR A (II)

FIRST READING

Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. He who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for he will find her sitting at his gates. To fix one’s thought on her is perfect understanding, and he who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths and meets them in every thought.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 63(62):2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8. R 2b

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

O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;
for you my soul is thirsting.
For you my flesh is pining,
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

I have come before you in the sanctuary,
to behold your strength and your glory.
Your loving mercy is better than life;
my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

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;
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise
you. **R.**

When I remember you upon my bed,
On you I muse through the watches of the
night.
For you have been my strength;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **R.**

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

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by the word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia. Stay awake and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, saying, "Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves." And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterwards the other virgins came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he answered, "Truly, I say to you, I do not know you." Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

REFLECTION

The ten virgins all carry lamps, all become drowsy, and all fall asleep. The difference is not that the wise never grow tired; it is that they have oil enough for the long wait. Jesus speaks to disciples who know that faithfulness is often lived not in moments of excitement, but through delay, uncertainty, and ordinary perseverance.

Saint Augustine sees the lamps as the good works which can be seen, and the oil as the love from which those works must flow. A lamp may look impressive for a time, but without that hidden oil its light cannot last. The wise cannot simply lend their oil because another person's inner life cannot be borrowed. Each heart must learn to receive and answer God's grace.

Saint Paul gives that waiting its foundation: Jesus died and rose again, and those who have fallen asleep are not lost to him. Christian hope does not forbid grief. It changes grief by refusing to let death have the final word. On Remembrance Sunday, we hold before God lives ended by war and all who continue to bear its wounds, trusting that they remain within his mercy.

Watchfulness therefore means more than remaining anxious about the future. It is the quiet work of keeping the lamp supplied: returning to prayer, choosing mercy, making peace, and allowing love to become a settled habit. The Bridegroom may seem delayed, but the promise remains. Jesus is coming to gather his people into the feast, and hope keeps its lamp burning for him.

St Augustine, Sermon 93 on the New Testament.