Reading for the Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Remembrance Sunday

8th November 2026

First reading **Wisdom 6:12-16**

'Wisdom is found by those who seek her.'

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. ℟2b

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.
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.
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.
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.

Second reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

'Through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.'

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

Matthew 24:42a, 44

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**

'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

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.'

Short reflection on the reading for today

The wedding banquet is a consistent image of eternal life in the New Testament. We can only speak about the unknown and unfamiliar in terms of what is known and familiar. The wedding banquet highlights eternal life as that state in which the deepest hunger and thirst in our lives will be satisfied, especially the hunger and thirst for love, for God who is love. "O God. for you my soul is thirsting" (responsorial psalm.) In the second reading, Paul. without making use of the banquet image, speaks of life beyond death in a similar vein–it is that eternal moment when "God will bring them (those who have died) with him" and when "we shall stay with the Lord forever." Eternal life will mean entering into a new" and fuller relationship with God and, through him, with all creation.

Yet, the parable warns us that it is possible to exclude ourselves from the banquet of eternal life. It was only those who were ready, who went in with the bridegroom to the wedding hall. When God comes to bring us, will we be ready? Life, including life after death is God's gift to us and a gift. by definition, can be refused, However, we will certainly be ready to accept this ultimate gift, if throughout our lives we have learned to be receptive to God. Our daily attitudes will determine our attitude at the moment of death. Today's gospel concludes with a ringing exhortation "Stay awake." One important way in which we stay awake to God is prayer. "Why are you sleeping?" Jesus asked his friends, "get up and pray" (Luke 22:46.) To pray is to awaken to the Lord who is always awake to us. In prayer we look for the Lord, desire him, watch for him and think about him. To pray is to become like a child, to grow in receptivity to God's presence within us.