

Our God is a faithful God. Let us adore him!

Wisdom 18:6-9

Psalm 33:1+12, 18-22

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-12

Luke 12:32-48

The first reading speaks of the night of the Passover known beforehand to our fathers. This gave them courage as they awaited the salvation of the just and destruction of their foes. That night the faithful good were offering sacrifices and prayer with one accord. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

The Psalmist patiently looks with hope to the Lord for help and protection and seeks His kindness. He knows that the eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear Him. The faithful will be delivered from death and preserved in time of famine and their praise is indeed fitting.

In the second reading Paul defines faith as the realization of what is hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. It was faith that led Abraham to obey and sojourn into the Promised Land; it was faith that gave him the power to have a son even though he was very old and Sarah was considered sterile. By faith Abraham considered God's promise trustworthy and so had numerous descendants.

In the Gospel Jesus teaches us to be as ready as servants who await their master's return from a long trip. Much will be required of the person entrusted with much and the vigilant will be blessed, especially those who are ready to respond at unlikely times. The Son of Man will come at the most unexpected hour.

**Our souls are precious to the Father,
Who sent the Son for our salvation.
Listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.**

We all struggle with the cares and anxieties of daily life but our goal needs to be that never-failing treasure with the Lord. Jesus tells us that we must always be alert because important things will happen at the most unexpected times. Abraham has given us numerous examples of how faith in God always turns out best even though the path may be strewn with difficulties and seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Pray that your faith be strengthened.

"My God, I belong and always wish to belong to you, in suffering or in pain, in spiritual dryness or in joy, in illness or in health, in life or in death. I want only one thing: that your will be done in me and by me. More and more I seek, and desire to seek, only one end: to promote your greater glory through the accomplishment of your desires for me.

Let me always be strict with myself, more gentle, loving and helpful to others, to make you loved through me, always hiding my efforts, prayers, and mortifications. Make me very humble and draw my heart to yours, my beloved Savior and God." (Elisabeth Leseur, 1914, a French married laywoman)

May the God in whose ways our fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been our shepherd from our birth to this day, the Angel who has delivered us from all harm, bless us and keep us in peace. Amen. (Genesis 48:15-16)

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