

Stay awake; you know not the hour!

Wisdom 6:12-16

Psalm 63:2-8

1 Thess. 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

Wisdom is found by those who love her, seek her, and keep vigil for her sake. She is unfading and resplendent and keeps us free from care. Wisdom seeks those who are worthy and graciously appears to them as she meets all with care and concern.

The psalmist continually seeks God and feels lifeless without his presence. God's kindness is great beyond measure and so the Lord will be constantly glorified. The psalmist will always bless the Lord, call upon his name, praise him, meditate upon him, and shout for joy under his protection.

Paul tells the Thessalonians they are to live with the hope of rising again. Jesus died and rose and so will awaken those who have fallen asleep. The Lord comes with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and the dead in Christ will rise first and then we too will be caught up. In this hope we are to console one another.

Jesus tells his listeners the parable of the ten virgins. Five are foolish and come unprepared for an unexpectedly long wait. The time lost in returning to obtain the proper preparation is critical and so they lose out on the invited opportunity.

The Father has given us the Word,
The Son is the Word of life.
The Holy Spirit guides us in readiness.

Be Prepared

Today's readings have a common thread in that the psalmist, the author of the Book of Wisdom, the Apostles, and the Thessalonians all long for the presence of our great and mighty God. The parable of the virgins has an eschatological meaning. Eschatology deals with last things: death, heaven, hell, the Second Coming, judgment, and the like. An important point made is that we are always to stay awake, i.e., be aware of what is going on around us, and be (spiritually) prepared for any and all situations.

Delay is an unfortunate circumstance that we all encounter at inopportune and unexpected times. The prophet Daniel exemplifies the case (see Daniel, Chapt.10) of an answer to prayer being delayed but sustaining preparedness in the meantime. The angel who appeared to Daniel indicated that he was delayed for twenty-one days before being able to come to him with a revelation and it was the angel Michael who intervened and confronted the powerful spirit called the "prince of the kingdom of Persia" thereby releasing the angel to come to Daniel. Daniel, in the meantime, was in a three-week penance and well-prepared for the delay.

And there is the warning to the servant who must keep the household in proper order until the master returns (Matt 24:45-51). If he doesn't the master will cut him off and send him to the place of hypocrites.

Therefore you too, must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (Matt 24:44)

