

[112] **NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME** C

FIRST READING

Abraham looked forward to the city designed and built by God.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

11:1-2, 8-12

Brothers and sisters:

Faith makes us sure of what we hope for
and gives us proof of what we cannot see.
It was their faith that made our ancestors pleasing to God.

Abraham had faith and obeyed God.
He was told to go to the land that God had said would be his,
and he left for a country he had never seen.

Because Abraham had faith,
he lived as a stranger in the promised land.
He lived there in a tent,
and so did Isaac and Jacob,
who were later given the same promise.

Abraham did this,
because he was waiting for the eternal city
that God had planned and built.

Even when Sarah was too old to have children,
she had faith that God would do what he had promised,
and she had a son.

Her husband Abraham was almost dead,
but he became the ancestor of many people.
In fact, there are as many of them as there are stars in the sky
or grains of sand along the beach.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

143:1, 8, 10

R. (1A) O Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen, Lord, as I pray!
you are faithful and honest,
and will answer my prayer.

R. O Lord, hear my prayer.

Each morning let me learn
more about your love
because I trust you.
I come to you in prayer,
asking for your guidance.

R. O Lord, hear my prayer.

You are my God. Show me
what you want me to do,
and let your gentle Spirit
lead me in the right path.

R. O Lord, hear my prayer.

ALLELUIA

Matthew 24:42a, 44

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Be prepared.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

12:35-40

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Be ready and keep your lamps burning
just like those servants who wait up
for their master to return from a wedding feast.

As soon as he comes and knocks,
they open the door for him.

“Servants are fortunate
if their master finds them awake and ready when he comes!

I promise you that he will get ready
and have his servants sit down so he can serve them.
Those servants are really fortunate if their master finds them ready,
even though he comes late at night or early in the morning.

“You would surely not let a thief break into your home,
if you knew when the thief was coming.
So always be ready!
You don’t know when the Son of Man will come.”

The gospel of the Lord.



**Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C**

Prayer:
Dear Jesus,
Thank you for loving us. Please help us to make ourselves ready for you.
In your name we pray.
Amen

Readings:

Hebrews	11: 1-2, 8-12
Psalms	143:1, 8, 10
Luke	12: 35-40

Reflection:

Everyone knows the story of the Three Pigs. They needed to build houses. Two of the brothers did their work very quickly building their homes so they could go play. The third brother, however, did not play with them. Instead he spent much more time on his house so he would be ready for anything that might happen. Unfortunately, when the wolf tried to attack the pigs, the first two were in trouble because their houses were not strong enough to keep them safe but the third pig's house was strong enough to take care of all of them. The lesson Jesus is teaching us today is almost exactly the same. He tells us we need to work to make sure we are prepared for Him. In doing this, we will also be prepared for anything that may come our way in life. This does not mean that we can never play or have fun. Jesus loves it when we are happy. He just wants us to also make sure we spend some time preparing for Him. We do this by spending time talking to Him every day in prayer. We do this by trying very hard to do what is right: being nice and helping others. We do this by listening to our parents and teachers when they are trying to help us. We do this by paying attention at Church and trying to learn what Jesus teaches us every time we are there.

Discussion:

- Why do you think we need to prepare for Jesus?
- What could happen if we don't?
- What are some ways you can prepare for Jesus?

Activity: Building Houses

Materials: Various building materials such as: popsicle sticks, wooden blocks, paper, cards, etc. You can also have other items such as paperclips, glue, and tape.

Activity: Divide the class into several groups. Assign each group a different material and ask them to make a house. After they complete their houses they are free to color and talk to each other. After the houses are made, talk about who finished first and what that group did when they were finished. Talk about which house is the sturdiest. Remind the class to think of these houses whenever they want to sleep-in instead of going to church or play video games when their parents need help around the house.

