THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Cycle A

FIRST READING

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

A reading from the book of Wisdom 6:12-16a

Wisdom shines brightly,
and she is easily seen by all who love her
and search for her.

Wisdom hurries to meet everyone who wants to be wise.
If you get up early and search,
you will easily find her at your front door.

Keep your mind on Wisdom,
and you will be very wise.
Keep thinking about her,
and all of your worries will soon disappear.

Wisdom goes around searching for those who deserve her.
She meets them along the road and stays in their thoughts

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 63:1, 2-3, 6-7

R. (2b) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

You are my God. I worship you.
In my heart, I long for you,
as I would long for a stream
in a scorching desert.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

I have seen your power
and your glory
in the place of worship.
Your love means more
than life to me,
and so I praise you.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

I think about you
before I go to sleep,
and my thoughts turn to you
during the night.
You have helped me,
and I sing happy songs
in the shadow of your wings.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

SECOND READING

Those who died, God will bring to life with Jesus.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18

My friends, we want you to understand how it will be
for those followers who have already died.
Then you won't grieve over them
and be like people who don't have any hope.

We believe that Jesus died and was raised to life.
We also believe that when God brings Jesus back again,
he will bring with him all who had faith in Jesus before they died.

Our Lord Jesus told us that when he comes,
we won't go up to meet him
ahead of his followers who have already died.

With a loud command and with the shout of the chief angel
and a blast of God's trumpet,
the Lord will return from heaven.
Then those who had faith in Christ before they died
will be raised to life.
Next, all of us who are still alive
will be taken up into the clouds together with them
to meet the Lord in the sky.
From that time on we will all be with the Lord forever.

Encourage each other with these words.

The word of the Lord.

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

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told his disciples this story about the kingdom of heaven:
"The kingdom of heaven is like what happened one night

when ten girls took their oil lamps
and went to a wedding to meet the groom.
Five of the girls were foolish and five were wise.
The foolish ones took their lamps, but no extra oil.
The ones who were wise took along extra oil for their lamps."

"The groom was late arriving,
and the girls became drowsy and fell asleep.
Then in the middle of the night someone shouted,
'Here's the groom! Come to meet him!'"

"When the girls got up and started getting their lamps ready,
the foolish ones said to the others,
'Let us have some of your oil!
Our lamps are going out.'"

"The girls who were wise answered,
'There's not enough oil for all of us!
Go and buy some for yourselves.'"

"While the foolish girls were on their way to get some oil,
the groom arrived.
The girls who were ready went into the wedding,
and the doors were closed.
Later the other girls returned and shouted,
'Sir, sir! Open the door for us!'"

"But the groom replied, 'I don't even know you!'"

"So, my disciples, always be ready!
You don't know the day or the time
when all this will happen."

The gospel of the Lord.

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Prayer:
Dear Jesus,
I can't wait to see you face-to-face!
Please help me to get ready for that great day.
In Your Name We Pray.
Amen

Readings:
Wisdom 6:12-16
Psalm 63:, 2-3, 6-7
Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Reflection:
In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us another story. It is about 10 bridesmaids who are waiting for the bridegroom to come for the wedding but they didn't know when he was going to get there. Five of the maids were very smart. They brought extra oil for their lamps (kind of like having extra batteries for your flashlight) so when he finally showed-up, they were ready and could go to the wedding banquet with him. The other 5 maids were foolish. They did not bring extra oil so when the bridegroom arrived their lamps were not working. They ran to buy more oil but while they were gone the wedding party went into the banquet and locked the doors so when the 5 foolish maids returned they could not go to the party.

This story is about us and God. We are the bridesmaids. Jesus is the bridegroom and the wedding banquet is heaven. Jesus is telling us that we need to be prepared for God as the five smart bridesmaids were. If we are not prepared then we will not be able to attend the banquet in heaven.

Being prepared means being ready for something even if you don't know for sure when it's going to happen. For example, Moms and Dads keep band-aids in their purses and wallet's so they are prepared when someone gets hurt. Kids do their homework so they are prepared for school the next

day. In our house, the mornings go much smoother if everyone puts-out their clothes for the next day, packs their lunch and their backpacks and gets to bed on time. When this happens everything is great the next morning, calm and smooth but when we are not prepared the mornings are a mess and everyone ends up cranky.

Being prepared for the heavenly banquet means being ready to meet Jesus and to go to heaven at any time.

Discussion:
1. What kind of people, do we believe, go to heaven?
2. What are some things we can do to be like those people and prepare ourselves to meet God?

Activity:
Materials needed: A battery operated candle or a small flashlight. A recording of This Little Light of Mine. You could also simply sing the song and say, "Stop," at the appropriate times. This activity is very similar to the game, Hot Potato. Place the children in a large circle. Ask them to pass the candle/flashlight around the circle until the music stops or you say, "Stop." Whoever is holding the candle says, "Jesus is coming soon and I'm going to get ready to meet Him by……", then they complete the sentence in their own words. The music resumes playing and whoever is holding the candle when it stops takes the next turn. Continue until everyone has an opportunity to say what they are going to do.

Children's Liturgy shared by the Adorers of the Blood of Christ
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