THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Cycle A

FIRST READING

The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 5:1-6

Brothers and sisters:
I don't need to write you
about the time or date when all this will happen.
You surely know that the Lord's return
will be as a thief coming at night.
People will think they are safe and secure.
But destruction will suddenly strike them
like the pains of a woman about to give birth.
And they won't escape.

My dear friends, you don't live in darkness,
and so that day won't surprise you like a thief.
All of you belong to the light and live in the day.
We don't live in the night or belong to the dark.
Others may sleep,
but we should stay awake and be alert.

The word of the Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM 27:1, 13-14

R. (1a) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

You, Lord, are the light
that keeps me safe.
I am not afraid of anyone.
You protect me,
and I have no fears.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Lord, I know I will live
to see how kind you are.
Trust the Lord!
Be brave and strong
and trust the Lord.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

ALLELUIA John 15:4a, 5b

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



GOSPEL

Because you have been faithful in small matters,
come into the joy of your master.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 25:14-15, 19-21

Jesus told his disciples this story about the kingdom of God:
"The kingdom is like what happened when a man went away
and put his three servants in charge of all he owned.
The man knew what each servant could do.
So he handed five thousand coins to the first servant,
two thousand to the second,
and one thousand to the third.
Then he left the country."

"Some time later the master of those servants returned.
He called them in and asked what they had done with his money.
The servant who had been given five thousand coins
brought them in with five thousand that he had earned.
He said, 'Sir, you have gave me five thousand coins,
and I have earned five thousand more.'"

"'Wonderful!' his master replied,
'You are a good and faithful servant.
I left you in charge of only a little,
but now I will put you in charge of much more.
Come and share in my happiness!'"

The gospel of the Lord.



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Prayer:
Dear Jesus,
Thank you for the gift of my talents.
Help me to use them in your service to help others.
In Your Name We Pray.
Amen

Readings:
1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6
Psalm 27: 1, 13-14
Matthew 25: 14-15, 19-21

Reflection:
In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us another story. It is about a wealthy man who is going away for a long time. Before he leaves he asks 3 of his servants to help care for his property. He gives each one some money (called talents in the story). When he returns he finds that 2 of the servants used the money but in such a way that they made even more money. This made the man very happy. The third servant, however, was afraid of what the man would do if something happened to the money so he decided to bury it to keep it safe. The man got very angry with this servant because he hadn't made more money as the other 2 servants had done.

In this story, Jesus is the wealthy man and we are the servants. Jesus is gone for a while in heaven but he left us his property, his kingdom, to care for. He gave each of us gifts to use to increase the kingdom. He wants us to be like the first and second servants. He wants us to take risks and use the gifts that He has given us. We can do this by donating our time and whatever skills that we have to help others and the church. For example, if someone is a good singer, they can join the choir and help bring people closer to God through music.



Discussion:

1. What gifts/talents did God give you?
2. How do you use those gifts/talents?
3. How could you use them to help build God's kingdom?
4. Do you think that God is happy with the way that you use the gifts/talents that have been given to you?

Activity:

Ask the children to draw a picture of one of their talents. This picture can then be placed inside a small box and then wrapped as a present. On the tag, put the student's name in the "To:" section and "God" in the "From:" section. An alternative would be to create a picture of a gift, make enough copies for everyone in the class. The tag should say, "To: _____, From: God." They can fill in their name and draw a picture inside the gift of a talent that God has given them.

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