

8 NOVEMBER 2020
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OPENING HYMN

A Lamp for our steps has been given,
A light has been set on a hill;
God's Word in its truth may be trusted,
By all who surrender their will.
To order the chaos of darkness,
Give hope in the midst of despair,
To make of our lives new creations
And lighten the burdens we bear.

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are Yours. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Wis 6:12-16

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 62:2-8

Our Response is: For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **R/**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **R/**

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R/**

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **R/**

SECOND READING: 1 Thes 4:13-18

GOSPEL: Mt 25:1-13

REFLECTION:

Most of us are very happy with the way we live. We are happy to attend Church services on Sundays, confessions, retreats etc... How many of us live our daily lives from the point of view of the final coming of Christ? It is the promise of Jesus' final coming that gives ultimate meaning to how we live our daily life and persevere in on-going hope.

In the first reading from the book of Wisdom, we find that wisdom is a virtue. It is given to all those who seek her. Even before we desire it, look out and watch for her, she comes to us. For us Christians, wisdom is in this constant watchfulness. How do we search for wisdom and allow her to become a part of our life? **Pause.**

In the responsorial psalm of today, there are images of thirsting, seeking, keeping watch. Because of the Psalmist's thirst for God, he keeps searching and patiently waiting. Are we content to search and wait patiently for God to reveal himself? **Pause**

In the Gospel of Matthew, the ten virgins are divided into those who are wise and those who are foolish. Many of us may feel sorry for the foolish virgins who ran out of oil while the wise virgins refused to share their oil. The first reading of today tells us that wisdom is for all. We need to be like the wise virgins who sought wisdom before they began their vigil and watch for the Bridegroom. We need to be prepared for the Hour. In the Gospel, we receive the assurance of the Bridegroom's coming even before we desire or watch for him. As infants, we were baptized and the light was entrusted to us to be kept burning brightly.When the Lord comes, we may go out and meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom. (*Rite of Baptism*) As we ponder on this parable, let us ask ourselves, can this oil be given to us by others? Are we supposed to search for the oil ourselves? What is the oil that keeps our faith in our lamp burning and alive? **Pause.**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Placing our trust in the Father who loves us and sent Jesus to redeem us, let us confidently bring our prayers before Him.

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for all the members of the Church, that we may be filled with Wisdom and live our daily lives faithful to the will of God; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those in authority, that they may be filled with God's wisdom to handle the pandemic that still threatens the lives of people; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all the differently abled, that their wisdom and talents be appreciated by the community and society; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those baptised, that we may live our lives loving and doing good as Christ did. May we also wait patiently and persevere in joyful hope for His coming; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

Leader: God of Wisdom, grant us your strength, that we may live our lives faithfully, following the values of Christ. Hear our prayers that we may be found ready, patiently waiting and watching when the bridegroom returns. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us together at the Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching, dare to say:
(All say the Lord's Prayer together) Our Father...

CLOSING PRAYER

Nourished by Your Word, O Lord, we give You thanks and beseech Your mercy, that, by the pouring forth of Your Spirit, the grace of integrity may endure in those your heavenly power has entered. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

As the deer that pants for water,

So my soul longs after you.

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength, my shield,

To you alone may my spirit yield.

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship you.

*Commission for Liturgy
Archdiocese of Bombay*