

# The Eucharist

12 November 2023 ✦ 32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A



**W**isdom and light go together and the wise bridesmaids are the ones who kept their lamps burning brightly. Wisdom is insight. But human insight – though it can go far – cannot get to the heart of things. To make that journey we need Christ, ‘the power and wisdom of God,’ ‘the Way, the Truth and the Life.’ One must attend to him and not doze in the stupor of ‘keeping my options open,’ of a life without values. We will be called to account.



*“Stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour”, Jesus said to his disciples.*

## FIRST READING

*(Wisdom 6:12-16)*

Wisdom here means practical knowledge of how to live a good, productive human life; to know the value of things and not merely their price; to be awake and alert. This is a gift but available to those who really want it.

## SECOND READING

*(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)*

Paul is not describing the end of the world but presenting an image full of hope to those worried about the fate of the dead. Christians can hope even in the face of death because of the resurrection of Jesus which is not merely something which happened to him but also a promise held out to us. It shows that God’s love overcomes death.

## GOSPEL

*(Matthew 25:1-13)*

In Jesus’ day the little clay lamps were left burning all night. The foolish bridesmaids could only think of the present with no thought of planning for the future. Jesus teaches that his followers should always keep the future in mind – not as a threat to ensure conformity but as a guide to help them live in the present.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Cf. Ps 87:3)*

**Let my prayer come into your presence.  
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And with your spirit.**

### Penitential Act

Brethren (brothers and sisters),  
let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate  
the sacred mysteries.

*A brief pause for silence follows.*

**I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,**

*And, striking their breast, they say:*

**through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;**

you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

### Collect

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.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

*Wis 6:12-16*

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.  
By those who love her she is readily seen,  
and found by those who look for her.

Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes  
herself known to them.

Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;  
you will find her sitting at your gates.

Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;  
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.  
She herself walks about looking for those who are  
worthy of her

and graciously shows herself to them as they go,  
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*(Ps 62:2-8)*

**℟ For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.**

1. 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. **℟**
2. 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. **℟**
3. 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. **℟**
4. 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. **℟**

### SECOND READING

*(1 Thess 4:13-18)*

*(For Shorter Form, read between ♠ ♠).*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul  
to the Thessalonians.

♠ We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those  
who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve  
about them, like the other people who have no hope. We  
believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will  
be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will  
bring them with him. ♠ We can tell you this from the Lord's  
own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the  
Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those  
who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the  
archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself  
will come down from heaven; those who have died in  
Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who  
are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with  
them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with  
the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should  
comfort one another.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*(Mt 24:42.44)*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Stay awake and stand ready,  
because you do not know the hour  
when the Son of Man is coming.  
Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

*(Mt 25:1-13)*



The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom  
of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their  
lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them  
were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did  
take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the  
sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps.  
The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy  
and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The  
bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all  
those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps,  
and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give  
us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they  
replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you;  
you had better go to those who sell it and buy some  
for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the  
bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with  
him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The  
other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said,  
"open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly,  
I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not  
know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Profession of Faith

*(Nicene Creed)*

**I believe in one God, / the Father almighty, / maker of  
heaven and earth, / of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, / the Only Begotten Son of God, / born of the Father before all ages. / God from God, Light from Light, / true God from true God, / begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; / through him all things were made. / For us men and for our salvation / he came down from heaven,**

*At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.*

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, / and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, / he suffered death and was buried, / and rose again on the third day / in accordance with the Scriptures. / He ascended into heaven / and is seated at the right hand of the Father. / He will come again in glory / to judge the living and the dead / and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, / who proceeds from the Father and the Son, / who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, / who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. / I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins / and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead / and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*The priest introduces the Prayer of the Faithful.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

### Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord, upon the sacrificial gifts offered here, that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of your Son, we may honour it with loving devotion. Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Eucharistic Prayer III

*(Preface III of the Sundays in Ordinary Time)*

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For we know it belongs to your boundless glory, that you came to the aid of mortal beings with your divinity

and even fashioned for us a remedy out of mortality itself,

that the cause of our downfall might become the means of our salvation, through Christ our Lord.

Through him the host of Angels adores your majesty and rejoices in your presence for ever.

May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in one chorus of exultant praise, as we acclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise, for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, you give life to all things and make them holy, and you never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you: by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration, that they may become the Body and  $\times$  Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed he himself took bread, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son, his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to his second coming, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church and, recognising the sacrificial Victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit,

may become one body, one spirit in Christ.  
May he make of us  
an eternal offering to you,  
so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect,  
especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Mother of God,  
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,  
with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs  
(with Saint N.: *the Saint of the day or Patron Saint*)  
and with all the Saints,  
on whose constant intercession in your presence  
we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation,  
we pray, O Lord,  
advance the peace and salvation of all the world.  
Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity  
your pilgrim Church on earth,  
with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop,  
the Order of Bishops, all the clergy,  
and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,  
whom you have summoned before you:  
in your compassion, O merciful Father,  
gather to yourself all your children  
scattered throughout the world.

To our departed brothers and sisters  
and to all who were pleasing to you  
at their passing from this life,  
give kind admittance to your kingdom.  
There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of  
your glory  
through Christ our Lord,  
through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.  
Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command  
and formed by divine teaching,  
we dare to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, / hallowed be thy name; / thy kingdom come, / thy will be done / on earth as it is in heaven. / Give us this day our daily bread, / and forgive us our trespasses, / as we forgive those who trespass against us; / and lead us not into temptation, / but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,  
look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And with your spirit.**

*The priest may invite the people to exchange a sign of peace and Christian fellowship. As the priest breaks the consecrated Host the following is sung or said:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins ...**

*Showing the Host to the people, the priest says:*

Behold the Lamb of God, ...  
**Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

**Communion Antiphon** (Cf. Ps 22:1-2)

**The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing  
I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives  
me repose,  
near restful waters he leads me.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Nourished by this sacred gift, 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.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**  
May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Personal Prayer**

Jesus, in the garden of your agony, you asked your friends to watch and pray. Help us to be aware of our future encounter with you as we work, pray and rest every day.

Keep us alert to your mercy and our duties. By coming to Mass and receiving Holy Communion we make a declaration of intent to act as you did. Help us to want this more than anything else. Amen.