

2020 November 08

*Thirty-second Sunday of the Ordinary Time*

**Readings:**

*First: Wisdom 6.12-16, "Wisdom is radiant and unfading." (12a)*

*Psalms 63, "I will lift up my hands and call on your name" (4b)*

*Second: 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18, "God will bring with him those who have died" (14b)*

*Gospel: Matthew 25.1-13, "Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (13)*

### *The Last Things*

There was a time in the life of the Church when most people were concerned, anxious or worried about the last things or last happenings to human existence and thereafter. Now a days these things seem bothering not too many. Faith in the Almighty God and what he does for humanity, what he can do, and what he might do for us all seem to be things of the past, things of no concern. Today's readings reflect these concerns as depicted in the teachings of Jesus and of the Church, telling us to be prepared and be ready all the time.

Since the power of the divine and fear of him are totally superseded by material possessions and material well-being, that which is immaterial and supernatural are gone from our consideration. When we read or listen to today's Wisdom verses and look at our world today, we are inclined to think that most in our generation do not have any regard or thought for this Wisdom, which/Who is speaking to us. Wisdom is radiant and unfading, making sure that it is always visible all over. The basic requirement for this visibility is that one should love it/her. Only the diligent seekers are likely to find her. She hastens to those desirous of her. The 'early birds' will see her perching at the gate.

Looking for, being vigilant, and concentrating on Wisdom are the sure ways to perfect understanding and a carefree life. She is a constant companion to those who care for her. Wisdom is presented here as the personification of God Almighty. In the parable of Jesus today the five maidens are wise, awake, and ready. In other words, they were real seekers of Wisdom and so had the privilege for admission to the Groom's chamber! The psalm today reminds us of the frame of mind we should have in this contemporary world, acknowledging our God, seeking and thirsting for him and fainting in his absence from our lives, and allowing ourselves to feast and be merry with his company.

St. Paul reminds the Thessalonians today that they/we are in great company of those who did and does everything the wisdom seekers are supposed to do. Let us think about joining this company, accompanying others in this company, and inviting those outside into this company. It is a great company. We are in great company. We must work for this company to happen. We cannot just afford to set aside the 'last things' to the very end. They need to occupy us all through our life and get our first priority attention, because they are the only lasting things. Knowing this is wisdom! Knowing wisdom is knowing God!

*Fr. George*



