

# Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—AUGUST 11, 2019

## First Reading — Wisdom 18:6-9

<sup>6</sup> That night was made known beforehand to our fathers, so that they might rejoice in sure knowledge of the oaths in which they trusted. <sup>7</sup> The deliverance of the righteous and the destruction of their enemies were expected by thy people. <sup>8</sup> For by the same means by which thou didst punish our enemies thou didst call us to thyself and glorify us. <sup>9</sup> For in secret the holy children of good men offered sacrifices, and with one accord agreed to the divine law, that the saints would share alike the same things, both blessings and dangers; and already they were singing the praises of the fathers.

## Responsorial Psalm PS 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22

R. (12b) **Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**B

Exult, you just, in the LORD;  
praise from the upright is fitting.  
Blessed the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.

R. **Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,  
upon those who hope for his kindness,  
To deliver them from death  
and preserve them in spite of famine.

R. **Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

Our soul waits for the LORD,  
who is our help and our shield.  
May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us  
who have put our hope in you.

R. **Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

## Second Reading — Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> For by it the men of old received divine approval. ...

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was to go. <sup>9</sup> By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

<sup>11</sup> By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

<sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received what was promised, but having seen it and greeted it from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup> For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

<sup>17</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, <sup>18</sup> of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your descendants be named." <sup>19</sup> He considered that God was able to raise men even from the dead; hence he did receive him back and this was a symbol.

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help

### Gospel Reading — Luke 12:32-48

<sup>32</sup> “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions, and give alms; provide yourselves with purses that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

<sup>35</sup> “Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup> and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the marriage feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes; truly, I say to you, he will gird himself and have them sit at table, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those servants! <sup>39</sup> But know this, that if the householder had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

<sup>41</sup> Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?” <sup>42</sup> And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise steward, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? <sup>43</sup> Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes will find so doing. <sup>44</sup> Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. <sup>45</sup> But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, <sup>46</sup> the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will punish him, and put him with the unfaithful. <sup>47</sup> And that servant who knew his master’s will, but did not make ready or act according to his will, shall receive a severe beating. <sup>48</sup> But he who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, shall receive a light beating. Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required; and of him to whom men commit much they will demand the more.

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help

### INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

### Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

### INVITATION TO REFLECT

### INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

#### First Reading —

1. How does the Responsorial Psalm interface with this first reading?

#### Second Reading —

2. Which example of faith in this passage is most meaningful to you? Why?

#### Gospel Reading —

3. Which of your possessions would be the most difficult for you to abandon, to pursue the things of Christ?
4. What point do you think Jesus was making when he said be “awake” when the master comes?
5. What are the benefits of serving Christ according to this parable?

### INVITATION TO ACT

*Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.*

### CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

*Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another’s openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.*