

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew**

**Jesus told his disciples this parable:**

**“The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who  
took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.**

**Five of them were foolish and five were wise.**

**The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with  
them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.**

**Since the bridegroom was long delayed,  
they all became drowsy and fell asleep.**

**At midnight, there was a cry, ‘Behold, the bridegroom!  
Come out to meet him!’**

**Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.**

**The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us  
some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’**

**But the wise ones replied, ‘No, for there may not be enough  
for us and you.**

**Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.’**

**While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those  
who were ready went into the wedding feast with him.**

**Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came  
and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’**

**But he said in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’**

**Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the  
hour.**

**The Gospel of the Lord**