

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Look to your covenant, O Lord,
and forget not the life of your poor ones for
ever.

Arise, O God, and defend your cause,
and forget not the cries of those who seek
you.

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 ever-living God,
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,
we dare to call our Father,
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts
the spirit of adoption as your sons and
daughters,
that we may merit to enter into the inheritance
which you have promised.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Wisdom 18:6-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom
That night had been foretold to our ancestors,
so that,
once they saw what kind of oaths they had put
their trust in
they would joyfully take courage.
This was the expectation of your people,
the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their
enemies;
for by the same act with which you took
vengeance on our foes
you made us glorious by calling us to you.
The devout children of worthy men offered
sacrifice in secret
and this divine pact they struck with one accord:
that the saints would share the same blessings
and dangers alike;
and forthwith they had begun to chant the
hymns of the fathers.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 32 (33):1, 12, 18-20, 22

Response:

**Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as
his own.**

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own. (R.)

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

SECOND READING

Hb 11:1-2, 8-19

(Shorter Form) Hb 11:1-2, 8-12

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we
hope for, or prove the existence of the realities
that at present remain unseen. It was for faith
that our ancestors were commended.
It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to
set out for a country that was the inheritance
given to him and his descendants, and that he
set out without knowing where he was going. By
faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised
Land, and lived there as if in a strange country,
with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him
of the same promise. They lived there in tents
while he looked forward to a city founded,
designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of
being past the age, was made able to conceive,
because she believed that he who had made
the promise would be faithful to it. Because of
this, there came from one man, and one who
was already as good as dead himself, more
descendants than could be counted, as many
as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on
the seashore.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord
of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to
mere children. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 12:32-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke (For shorter form read between >< Lk
12:35-40)

>Jesus said to his disciples:< 'There is no need
to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your
Father to give you the kingdom.

'Sell your possessions and give alms. Get
yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure
that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can
reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your
treasure is, there will your heart be also.

>'See that you are dressed for action and
have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for
their master to return from the wedding feast,
ready to open the door as soon as he comes
and knocks. Happy those servants whom the
master finds awake when he comes. I tell you
solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them
down at table and wait on them. It may be in
the second watch he comes, or in the third,
but happy those servants if he finds them
ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if
the householder had known at what hour the
burglar would come, he would not have let
anyone break through the wall of his house. You
too must stand ready, because the Son of Man
is coming at an hour you do not expect.<

Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable
for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied,
'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise
enough for the master to place him over his

household to give them their allowance of food
at the proper time? Happy that servant if his
master's arrival finds him at this employment. I
tell you truly, he will place him over everything
he owns. But as for the servant who says to
himself, "My master is taking his time coming,"
and sets about beating the menservants and
the maids, and eating and drinking and getting
drunk, his master will come on a day he does
not expect and at an hour he does not know.
The master will cut him off and send him to the
same fate as the unfaithful.

The servant who knows what his master
wants, but has not even started to carry out
those wishes, will receive very many strokes
of the lash. The one who did not know, but
deserves to be beaten for what he has done,
will receive fewer strokes. When a man has
had a great deal given him, a great deal will
be demanded of him; when a man has had a
great deal given him on trust, even more will be
expected of him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, to accept the offerings of
your Church,
for in your mercy you have given them to be
offered
and by your power you transform them
into the mystery of our salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the communion in your Sacrament
that we have consumed, save us, O Lord,
and confirm us in the light of your truth.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday Message

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 10 August 2025 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3

KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

LK 12:32-48



Today's Gospel trembles with a tremendous sense of urgency. Jesus tells his followers that they must sell their possessions; they must be dressed for action and have their lamps lit.

They are to be like servants waiting for their master's return. No matter how long it takes their master to return, they are to be ready and waiting. They must not be complacent or be caught off guard. If he catches them unawares, they will pay a heavy price.

Jesus' words are stark, and his warning is clear, and it is meant for each one of us just as much as for his disciples. As people who have heard the Good News, we believe that the Lord is present among us and will come again to take us home to him. So we must be on the alert for his coming. We are to live as if it could happen at any moment. We are to live lives worthy of his followers. If we do this, Jesus promises that our reward will be great indeed. ■

SAY

"Lord, help me to be attentive to your presence. Help me to never lose sight of you. Amen."

LEARN

The Christian awaits with breathless hope the coming of the Lord

The Christian is always ready and prepared for the Lord's coming

DO

Make an examination of conscience. Look at your life, your behaviour, your priorities. How ready are you to meet the Lord when he comes?

PRAY

Pray for those in authority in the church that they will never lord it over others but be always at the service of their sisters and brothers.



REFLECT

The first time Boris Yeltsin visited Washington, DC, President George H.W. Bush was less than impressed. Yeltsin had recently come to prominence in the Soviet Union as a brash rival to Mikhail Gorbachev. He thought a tour of the United States would burnish his credentials as an up and coming statesman, a leader the West would need to take seriously. So he went on a multi-city tour of America that led all the way to an audience with Bush in the White House.

However, Yeltsin was inclined to drink too much. His table etiquette wasn't the best, and his general deportment did him no favours.

He struck George Bush as boorish and crude, especially in comparison with the suave Gorbachev. And Bush didn't think much of his dress sense, either. Yeltsin's suit was ill-fitting and unflattering; his entire appearance was slovenly and unkempt. Yeltsin didn't know how to present himself properly. People in Washington notice these things.

A year later, Yeltsin was back in America. His political star was shining brightly now, he was after winning some major electoral battles in Russia, and there was a spring in his step. He also presented himself differently. His suit and shirt fit perfectly and looked expensive. He came across as more dignified and serious, and everybody in Washington noticed. President Bush was struck by the contrast between the Yeltsin he was meeting now and the one he had encountered the year before. Yeltsin looked a new man.

We don't have to watch reruns of Keeping up Appearances to know how fixated people can be on dress and presentation. While there can be an element of snobbery to this, it is more than just being obsessed with looks and fashion. It is about dressing appropriately, looking the part. How we dress is about how we present ourselves to the world. It's about proper self-care and social awareness, knowing what is expected of us in any

particular situation. The more care we take, the less likely that we will be embarrassed. So dress is an indicator of preparedness. Wear the appropriate clothes for the proper occasion, and we need never worry.

It is advice that Jesus offers his followers in today's Gospel: "See that you are dressed for action," he says. Make sure you wear the right clothing. Make sure that you are ready.

But ready for what? What are we to prepare for? We are to be ready for whenever the Master returns. We are to be groomed and properly presented for the Master's reappearance, whenever that may be. This is not just a warning about Jesus' coming in glory at the end of time, but about living in a state of watchfulness and attentiveness to the signs of his presence among us here and now.

Are you dressed for action? ■