32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A – November 8, 2026
Wisdom 6:12–16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Matthew 25:1–13

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Imagine that every morning, when you wake up, someone deposits $86,400 into your bank account. But there is one condition: whatever you do not spend that day is lost forever. You cannot save it for tomorrow or carry it over to the next day. Wouldn't you make sure to use every dollar wisely?
Each one of us has something even more valuable than money. It is called TIME.
Every morning, God gives us 86,400 seconds as a gift of life. When the day is over, whatever time we have not used is gone forever. Yesterday is gone, and tomorrow is not guaranteed.
And this brings us to one of the greatest mistakes we make in life: thinking that we will always have tomorrow.
We postpone prayer because we think we can pray tomorrow. We postpone forgiveness because we think there will be another opportunity. We postpone doing good because we think there is still plenty of time.
But life teaches us that tomorrow is never guaranteed.
We do not know how many more days God will give us. Therefore, the important question is: How are we using the time God has given us?
Today's readings remind us that life is a gift and that we must use our time wisely to prepare for the Lord.

In the first reading, the Book of Wisdom tells us that wisdom is available to everyone who sincerely seeks it.
There is a difference between knowledge and wisdom. Knowledge teaches us how to make a living, but wisdom teaches us how to live. Knowledge helps us succeed in the world, but wisdom helps us live according to God's will.
True wisdom begins when we put God at the center of our lives. It means making time for prayer, listening to God's Word, participating in the Eucharist, forgiving others, and caring for those in need.
The question we should ask ourselves is: What am I really seeking in life? Am I seeking only success, money, and recognition, or am I also seeking the wisdom that leads me closer to God?
In the second reading, St. Paul speaks about death and the loss of our loved ones. He tells the Thessalonians not to grieve like those who have no hope.
Notice that St. Paul does not say that Christians should not grieve. We grieve because we love. Even Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus.

But our grief is different because we have hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again. Therefore, death does not have the final word. We believe that one day we will be reunited with Christ and with those who have gone before us in faith.

This hope reminds us that our life on earth is not our final destination. We are here to prepare for eternal life with God.

Now, coming to the Gospel, Jesus gives us the parable of the ten bridesmaids. Five were wise, and five were foolish.

All ten had lamps. All ten were waiting for the bridegroom. All ten became tired and fell asleep. But there was one important difference: the wise bridesmaids brought extra oil, while the foolish ones did not.

When the bridegroom finally arrived at midnight, the wise ones were ready. Their lamps were burning. But the foolish ones discovered that their oil was running out.

There is an interesting question here: Why didn't the wise bridesmaids share their oil with the others? Were they being selfish?

No. The point of the parable is not that we should refuse to help others. Jesus teaches us to be generous and caring. But the oil represents something personal that cannot simply be transferred from one person to another.

Your mother's faith cannot replace your own faith. Your father's prayers cannot take the place of your own relationship with God. Your husband's or wife's commitment to God cannot substitute for yours.

Each one of us must build our own relationship with Christ. Nobody can do that for us, and we cannot wait until the last moment to begin.

So, what does this oil represent?

It represents our faith, our prayer, our love, our good works, our forgiveness, and our faithfulness to God.

Every time we forgive someone, we add oil to our lamps. Every time we help someone in need, we add oil. Every time we visit the sick, comfort the lonely, feed the hungry, or show kindness to someone who is struggling, we add oil to our lamps.

In other words, our daily actions prepare us to meet the Lord.

There is another beautiful detail in today's Gospel: All ten bridesmaids fell asleep, including the wise ones!

This tells us that being prepared does not mean living in fear or anxiety. It means living faithfully every day.

So, how do we fill our lamps? How do we use our time to prepare for the Lord?

I would suggest three simple ways.

First, prayer.

We are often busy with many things. Sometimes we say, "I don't have time to pray." But prayer is not a waste of time. It is how we remain connected with God. We need time for

personal prayer, the Word of God, and especially the celebration of the Eucharist. Just as we need food for our bodies, we need prayer to nourish our souls.

Second, learning our faith.

We spend many years learning how to succeed in this world. We study different subjects, develop our skills, and prepare for our careers. But how much time do we spend learning about our faith? How much time do we spend reading the Bible and understanding the teachings of Jesus? We should never stop growing in our knowledge and love of God.

Third, good works.

Our faith must become visible in our actions. Every time we feed the hungry, visit the sick, comfort someone who is lonely, forgive someone who has hurt us, or help a person in need, we are filling our lamps with oil. These acts of love prepare us to meet the Lord.

Prayer, learning our faith, and good works: these are three important ways to keep the lamps of our faith burning.

My dear brothers and sisters, we do not know when the Lord will call us. We hear about people who die unexpectedly in accidents or from sudden illnesses. We are reminded that life is precious and that we should never take tomorrow for granted.

But we should not live in fear. Every new morning gives us another opportunity. If we made a mistake yesterday, we can correct it today. If we have hurt someone, we can ask forgiveness. If we have neglected prayer, we can begin again.

Jesus concludes the parable with these words:

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

Let us not postpone our conversion, our reconciliation, or our good works. The time to prepare is now.

One day, the bridegroom will come. May He find our lamps burning and our hearts ready. And may we all be welcomed into the eternal wedding feast, where we will share the joy of God’s kingdom forever.

Amen.