



AMDG
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
YEAR C
11TH AUGUST 2019



‘Watch ... wait ...be ready!’

OPENING PRAYER

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.

Today's readings continue last week's theme. We are to be ready when the Lord comes.

In the *First Reading* from the book of Wisdom, the people recall that it was at night that the Exodus to the promised land began. They were watchful and ready when the Lord called them.

These are the qualities the Lord is expecting from his disciples in the *Gospel* passage we read today. They, too, are ready for action, ready to meet the Lord when he knocks at their door, even in the middle of the night.

The *Psalms* is a song of confidence in God. It reflects on the concern the Lord has shown for his people over the generations. In trust and hope our soul is waiting for the Lord.

The *Second Reading* from Hebrews reminds us that faith is essential. It sustained Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Sarah, who all believed in the promises made to them. It is faith which enables them to keep watching and waiting for the coming of the Lord.

In my prayer this week, I may want to consider that every time I attend the Eucharist, I am invited to the Lord's Supper – and that, like the Master in the Gospel passage, he waits on me with love and compassion.

PSALM 32 (33)

R/. Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as his own.

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.

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.

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.

It may have been difficult to find a few moments to spend with the Lord today ... or I may have plenty of time. Whatever the case, I settle down and try to put aside any worries or concerns.

Perhaps I focus on the light of a candle, if it helps.

Slowly and prayerfully I read the verses of this psalm.

I stop where I feel drawn.

I may ponder on the psalmist's promise of happiness.

What does that mean to me in my everyday life?

If I try to imagine the Lord looking on me – a 'loyal, hopeful heart' whom he has chosen – what happens?

How does it make me feel?

Perhaps today I am waiting for the Lord my God to help me and shield me from a particular difficulty. I speak to him about it.

It may help to read the last stanza, quietly, on my breath, personally addressing the Lord: 'My soul is waiting for you, you are my help and shield ...'

As the time comes to conclude my prayer, I give thanks.

I may wish to take the last line and use it throughout the day as a short prayer:

May your love be upon me, as I place all my hope in you.

GOSPEL LUKE 12: 32–48 (shortened version)

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘... 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.’

What sort of a day have I had ... or what is my day going to be like?
I spend time focusing on this, and ask the Lord to be with me as I remember or look forward . I try to leave all preoccupations behind, focusing only on this time spent with the Lord.

When I have reached some inner quiet, I read the text.
I stop when a phrase strikes me.

What does it mean to me? Why would someone do that?

It may help if I can imagine myself as one of the disciples Jesus is addressing, or as one of the characters: the servants, the master, the householder.
I might move from one to another.

What new perspectives come to the fore?

Jesus is encouraging his disciples to be ready and vigilant for the coming of the Son of Man.

I look to my own life. In what ways does this apply to me?

How will I respond when the Master knocks at my door?

Am I so protective of my own property that I forget to trust, and see the good in other people's actions?

I turn to the Lord and tell him how I feel at the end of my prayer.

I ask him for the help and support I need just now.

In gratitude, I say: *Glory be to the Father ...*

Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

You made us glorious by calling us to you.

First Reading

They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own

Psalm

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for.

Second Reading

There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your
Father to give you the kingdom.

Gospel

This week's texts if you want to reflect further

Wisdom 18: 6–9; Psalm 32 (33); Hebrews 11: 1 – 2.8–19; Luke 12: 32–48



‘Be ready
to open
the door
as soon as
the Master
comes and
knocks’



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