

Sunday Message

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 10 August 2025 • Psalter Week 3

KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

LUKE 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 your 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 fitted 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? ■

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.*

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 of our liberation was made known beforehand to our fathers,
so that they might rejoice in sure knowledge of the oaths in which
they trusted. The deliverance of the righteous and the destruction of
their enemies were expected by your people. For by the same means
by which you punished our enemies you called us to yourself and
glorified us. For in secret the holy children of good people 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 33 (32):1,12. 18-19. 20, 22. R.12b

R: Blessed the people the LORD has chosen as his heritage.

1. Ring out your joy to the LORD, O you just;
for praise is fitting from the upright.
Blessed the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people he has chosen as his heritage. **R.**
2. Yes, the LORD's eyes are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their soul from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **R.**
3. Our soul is waiting for the LORD.
He is our help and our shield.
May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O LORD. **R.**

SECOND READING Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

(for shorter form read between > <)

> Brothers and sisters: Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old
received their commendation.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a
place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out,
not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the
land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and
Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking
forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and
builder is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive,
even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful
who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as
dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and
as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. <

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised,
but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having
acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.
For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a
homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had
gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 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.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he
who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only
son, of whom it was said, 'Through Isaac shall your offspring be
named.' He considered that God was able even to raise him from
the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Matthew 24:42a, 44

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

Stay awake and be ready,

for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Luke 12:32-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

(for shorter form read between > <)

> At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, <

'Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give
you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy.
Provide yourselves with money bags that do not grow old, with
a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief
approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is,
there will your heart be also.

> 'Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and
be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from
the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once
when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom
the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he
will dress himself for service, and have them recline at table, and
he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or
in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!
But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what
hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be
broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming
at an hour you do not expect.' <

Peter said, 'Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?'
And the Lord said, 'Who then is the faithful and wise manager,
whom his master will set over his household, to give them their
portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom
his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you,
he will set him over all his possessions. But if that servant says to
himself, "My master is delayed in coming", and begins to beat the
male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, 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 cut him in pieces
and put him with the unfaithful.

And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get
ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But
the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will
receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him
much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much,
they will demand the more.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.*

Or

*The bread that I will give, says the Lord,
is my flesh for the life of the world.*

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.**