



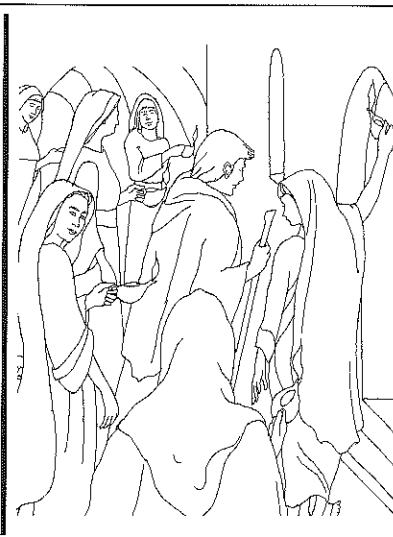
32ND SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

RESPONSE: Psalm 63

I long for you;
I long for you;
I long for you,
my God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Always be ready,
for you do not know
when the Lord will come.
Alleluia, alleluia!
When the Lord will come.



EVALUATION

We are providing this brief evaluation form for use after you have celebrated this Sunday's liturgy with the children.

Notes for future reference:

What went well?

What needs improvement?

LITURGICAL SEASON BACKGROUND

The last three Sundays in Ordinary Time turn our thoughts to the end of time. During the past weeks we have been reflecting on life in the kingdom of God and our share in building that kingdom here on earth. Last Sunday, Jesus advised his follows that only those who serve others and do not lord it over others will be considered great in the kingdom of God.

This Sunday Jesus tells another parable to describe life in the kingdom. In this story, ten bridesmaids are waiting with oil lamps for the groom to return. Only five bring enough oil to last all night and when they leave to get more oil, they miss out on the return of the bridegroom. Jesus concludes his story with the advice: "Always be ready, for you do not know when the Lord will come."

In the spirit of anticipation, we begin to end this season of the liturgical year. Next Sunday we will hear still another parable describing the kingdom. It is the story of the talents in which we learn that the happiness God provides does not depend upon how much we have but on how well we do with whatever gifts we have been given. Our God is the God of surprises. God always gives us more than we might otherwise dream. So do we look with joy for the end of time when God's kingdom will have been fulfilled.

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

Both readings today are about wisdom. Some of the later Old Testament works, often called "Wisdom Literature," portray wisdom as an attribute of God.

The scripture writers do not describe wisdom as a gift with which we are born. It is a virtue we seek and pray for. Wisdom is one of the faces of God. In ancient languages, wisdom is in the feminine gender, as is reflected in the translation of the scriptures here.

Wisdom in human life has a practical side and is essential for one to live a Godly or good life. Moreover, as the first reading suggests, wisdom is everlasting.

In the second reading, Jesus tells a story to describe readiness, an attitude that is characteristic of the wise person. The main characters are women, bridesmaids who are waiting with oil lamps for the return of the groom. It might be helpful to know that the oil lamps were very small — about the size of a bridesmaid's hand — and had to be refilled often.

Jesus' point is well made: they should have known better than to come without extra oil. Because they were not prepared, they found themselves locked out. Jesus called them foolish — lacking in wisdom.

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A

LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT

The environment for Ordinary Time is simple, featuring a candle, a plant or group of plants, some Fall colors, and perhaps some incense. The liturgical color of the season is green.

You might display the *SUNDAY Scripture Poster* which this week, is an illustration of the Gospel, showing the bridesmaids with lamps welcoming the groom. The poster could be sent home with a different family each week to color for the next celebration. The book of God's word, displayed facing the assembly, is the focal point of the gathering space.

CENTERING / PROCESSIONAL SONG

You might use the same centering/gathering song for several Sundays during this season. *Suggestions:*

- "Soon and Very Soon" (*Vol. 1 Sing God A Simple Song*, #2, Treehaus Communications). This is an appropriate song for the last Sundays in Ordinary Time. The gestures or movement call for simply clapping and swaying to the music, whether used in procession or as a centering song.
- "Song of the Body of Christ" (*Vol. 1 Sing God A Simple Song*, #30, Treehaus Communications). This would be an appropriate song for the closing Sundays of the liturgical year. When used as a centering song, rather than as a processional, you might use the movement and gestures suggested in *Sing God a Simple Song*.
- "To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King" (*Vol. 2 Sing God A Simple Song*, #46, Treehaus Communications). You might follow the gestures suggested in *Sing God A Simple Song*.

FIRST READING *Wisdom 6:12-16*

The reader may be either a child or an adult; in either case, the person should know ahead of time in order to prepare carefully. This beautiful description of wisdom might be read slowly and confidently to convey the strong imagery.

PSALM RESPONSE

The psalm is not only a response to the first reading; rather, "responsorial" is descriptive of the way the psalm is prayed, with the children responding to the cantor or leader. You might use the same psalm through several Sundays. *Suggestions:*

- "Psalm 63: I Long For You" (Walker, *SUNDAY Book of Readings/Lectionary Adapted for Children* and *SUNDAY Weekly Leader's Guide*, Year A, page 128, Treehaus

Communications; *Music for Children's Liturgy of the Word*, Cycle A, Treehaus Communications/O.C.P. Publications).

- "Psalm 122: We Shall God Up With Joy" (*Vol. 1 Sing God A Simple Song*, #6, Treehaus Communications). Suggested gestures:

We shall go up with joy . . . (Lift hands upward.) to the house of our God. (*Hands might be brought together, folded, heads bowed.*)

- "Psalm 103: Bless the Lord, My Soul" (*Vol. 2 Sing God A Simple Song*, #36, Treehaus Communications).
- "Psalm 122: I Rejoiced" (*Vol. 2 Sing God A Simple Song*, #6, Treehaus Communications).

You might follow the gestures as recommended in *Sing God a Simple Song*.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Suggestions:

- "Always Be Ready" (Walker, *SUNDAY Book of Readings/Lectionary Adapted for Children* and *SUNDAY Weekly Leader's Guide*, Year A, page 128, Treehaus Communications; *Music for Children's Liturgy of the Word*, Cycle A, Treehaus Communications/O.C.P. Publications).
- "Alleluia" (*Vol. 1 Sing God A Simple Song*, #42, Treehaus Communications). You might follow the gestures as recommended in *Sing God a Simple Song* which suggests simply swaying back and forth for each "alleluia."
- Alleluia verse from "Peace Is Flowing Like A River" (*Vol. 2 Sing God A Simple Song*, #51, Treehaus Communications). You might follow the gestures suggested in *Sing God A Simple Song*.

GOSPEL *Matthew 25:1-13*

Usually the presider reads the Gospel. This is a story that continues to build, so it is important to sustain a level of energy to convey the drama of the event, particularly the last lines in which Jesus tells the moral of the story.

HOMILY OUTLINE

See the *SUNDAY Weekly Leader Guide*, Year A, pages 128 and 129, for "Focus of the Readings" and "Reflecting on the Readings With Children." When reflecting on the scriptures with children we take our cues from the children's responses. In so doing, you might use some of the questions below to enrich their appreciation of God's word.

WE LISTEN TO GOD SPEAK

- What might the children in the assembly hear God saying to them in today's readings?
- How might you engage the children in the biblical experience with open-ended questions?

Examples for this week's readings:

Concerning the first reading:

- What does this reading tell you about who God is? In what way is Wisdom like God?
- Why do you think Wisdom is spoken of as a woman?
- What do you think the author of this reading means by saying, "Anyone who wants to have wisdom will find her if they love her and look for her."
- Why do you think people who have wisdom know what is good and right? And free from worry?

Concerning the Gospel:

- What does the story of Jesus tell you about the reign of God?
- How would you feel if you were one of the bridesmaids who had enough oil? How would you have felt toward the bridesmaids who did not have enough oil?
- What do you think would have happened if the bridesmaids had shared their oil with those who had run out?
- Would not sharing oil have been the charitable thing to do?
- What was the most important thing for you about his story?
- Why do you think the bridegroom told the bridesmaids who were late that he did not know them?
- Jesus said that you do not know when the Lord will come. What do you think he means by that? Why do you think God does not tell us when Jesus will come again? Wouldn't it be easier to be prepared if we were to know?

WE REFLECT ON THE REIGN OF GOD

- How can you invite the children to look out of the biblical experience at their lives today?
- How can you use the biblical imagery of today's readings to explore with children their experience of God's presence in our lives today?

Examples for this week's readings

Concerning the first reading:

- Who are some wise people you know? What are they like? What have you learned from them about what is good and right?
- How has Wisdom been wonderful for you? What was that like for you?
- What has been your experience of Wisdom? Where might you have found her?
- Where would it be good for you to look for Wisdom?
- In what way have you found Wisdom "lead your thoughts"?
- What choices have you made in which you have felt Wisdom helped you? What was that like for you?

Concerning the Gospel:

- Who are some people you know that are like the five wise bridesmaids? Like the five foolish bridesmaids?
- In what ways might you have been like the five wise women? Like the five foolish women?
- In what ways do you feel prepared for whenever the Lord might come? In what ways might you not feel prepared?
- What might we miss out on if we are not prepared when the Lord comes?
- In what ways has the Lord come to you when you did not expect him? What was that like for you?



□ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

- How might you attune yourself to encourage the children's own creative responses to God's word?
- How might the Spirit be moving the children to respond to God's word in praise and thanksgiving?

Examples for this week's readings:

Concerning the first reading:

- What are some things we can do to look for Wisdom?
- How can we be ready to let Wisdom help us?
- How can we let Wisdom lead our thoughts and guide us in all that we do?

Concerning the Gospel:

- What can you do to make wise choices and not "run out of oil"?
- What can we do to ready to receive Jesus when he comes into our lives today?
- In what way do you think this story can help you be ready for the time when the Lord comes?

CREED

Invite the children to profess their faith by creedal statements that echo the readings. Reflect on what the readings say about God as Creator, Jesus as Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit as the Giver of Life. Express these statements so that the children can give their assent to them. This week's readings, for example, offer these options:

- God, who is all wise, Wisdom herself; who guides us to know what is good and right.
- Jesus, who teaches us the way to be wise; who shows us that wisdom makes us ready to receive God.
- Holy Spirit, who is the gift of God's wisdom; helps us to be wise.

PRAYERS OF FAITHFUL

The proclamation of the word leads us to change our lives and express our gratitude in the celebration of the Eucharist. After the children have offered their prayers and concerns, you might also offer petitions based on the scripture texts. See notes for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time for guidelines on preparing petitions.

In formulating the prayers, you might draw from the verbs or "action words" and biblical images in this week's readings. For example: *look for, help, know, guide, wake up, be ready, "free from worry."*

NOTE: Arrange to have the Sunday Scripture Leaflets given to the children as they are leaving Mass. Encourage the children and parents to use these leaflets through the week to continue reflecting prayerfully on God's Word. In addition, emphasize the use of the Light of the World, Our Family Spiritual Life Journal, pages 134 and 135, (Treehaus Communications, Inc.) as a way of assisting the family's deeper reflection on God's word at home.



Liturgy of the Word

November 6, 2011

CENTERING / PROCESSIONAL SONG

• "To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King" (Vol. 2 Sing God A Simple Song, #46, Treehaus Communications).

Substitutions/Additional Notes:

OPENING PRAYER

Presider: O God, you are all wise. Guide us in your ways. We want to be wise, too. We want to be ready for Jesus when he comes to us. May your Spirit keep us alert as we watch for his coming every day in our lives. We pray in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Substitutions/Additional Notes:

FIRST READING *Wisdom 6:12-16*

Today's Reader: _____

Presider: Today we hear how to find wisdom.

PSALM RESPONSE

Presider or Leader of Song: The God of Wisdom guides us along the right path, so we sing with joy and praise.

Substitutions/Additional Notes:

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

• "Always Be Ready" (Walker, *SUNDAY Book of Readings/Lectionary Adapted for Children* and *SUNDAY Weekly Leader Guide*, Year A, page 128, Treehaus Communications; *Music for Children's Liturgy of the Word*, Cycle A, Treehaus Communications/O.C.P. Publications).

Substitutions/Additional Notes:

GOSPEL

Today's Reader: _____

Preliminary Comments: Jesus tells us a story about how important it is to watch for him.

Liturgy Celebration for November 6, 2011 • 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A



HOMILY

Focal Points: Our God is the God of Wisdom. Wisdom is personified as feminine in the scriptures, in keeping with the feminine gender of the original Hebraic word; so is Wisdom referred to as “she” and considered by some to be a feminine attribute of God. Those who follow God’s guidance share in the Wisdom of God and know what is right and good. The God of Wisdom frees us from worry. Jesus knows the God of Wisdom. He tells a story that shows how the Wisdom of God enables people to be ready to receive the Lord when he comes. We may not know where the Lord will come, but if we follow the Wisdom of God, we will be ready. We will not run out of the oil of the Wisdom of God that gives us the light to see.

Outline:

CREED

Presider: Let us proclaim our faith in the God of Wisdom who knows all things and guides us in ways that are wise.

• Do you believe in God, whose wisdom is wonderful and everlasting?

All: Yes, we believe! *Or:* Yes, we believe in God, who . . .

• Do you believe in Jesus, who shares with us the wisdom of God and guides us into the house of God?

All: Yes, we believe! *Or:* Yes, we believe in Jesus, who . . .

• Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us to seek Wisdom and to be ready whenever Jesus comes.

All: Yes, we believe! *Or:* Yes, we believe in the Holy Spirit, who . . .

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider: Our God teaches us the way of Wisdom. So do we trust in God when we pray. (After the children have offered their prayers, you might also add prayers based on today’s scripture texts. For example:)

+ May the leaders of nations and all peoples be guided by your wisdom; we pray.

All: God of Wisdom, hear our prayer.

+ May your church be a source of wisdom for those who seek you; we pray.

All: God of Wisdom, hear our prayer.

+ May we in our families and neighborhoods live wisely and ready to receive Jesus whenever he comes; we pray.

All: God of Wisdom, hear our prayer.

Substitutions/Additional Notes:

CLOSING PRAYER

Presider: O God, your face is the light of Wisdom. You show us the way that is good and right. We praise you and thank you. As we gather at your Holy Table, may we be filled with the light of your wisdom and the Sacred Food of life everlasting. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Substitutions/Additional Notes:

NOTE: Arrange to have the *Sunday Scripture Leaflets* given to the children as they are leaving Mass. Encourage the children and parents to use these leaflets and the *Light of the World, Our Family Spiritual Life Journal* throughout the week.

**THIRTY-SECOND
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

YEAR A

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Lord God,
you speak to us in our hearts
and one day will call us
to live with you forever.
Do not let us be deaf
to your voice
nor let your final call
take us by surprise.
With your help, may we
keep on praying every day.
And, guided by
your Holy Spirit,
may we learn how to choose
the right things to do
and avoid the bad.
We make this prayer to you
through Jesus, your Son,
who lives with you,
forever and ever.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The focus of both readings is wisdom. It is common in the Old Testament to find wisdom as an expression of God. Here in this reading, we see wisdom praised as the gift which lasts forever. As the presence of God, she is available to all who seek her. She guides their ways to the good.

The Gospel takes this poetic text and puts it into a tangible parable. The focus of the parable is seen in the last line, "Always be ready, for you do not know at what hour the Lord is coming." From the first reading and the parable, we know that being ready comes from wisdom.

FIRST READING: Wisdom 6:12-16

This is a reading from the book of Wisdom.

Wisdom is wonderful and everlasting.
Anyone who wants to have wisdom
will find her if they love her and look for her.
Wisdom is always ready to help anyone
who wants her.

People who have wisdom
know what is good and right.
They are free from worry.
Wisdom will lead their thoughts
to what is good,
and she will guide them in all that they do.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: Psalm 63

RESPONSE:

1. O God you are my God, I
2. O God you are my God, you're

to Response

1. give you thanks and praise your name.
2. all I need to guide my way.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Al - ways be read - y for you do not know when the
Lord will come. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, when the
Lord will come, when the Lord will come, when the Lord will come, when the
Lord will come.

(Fine)

GOSPEL: *Matthew 25:1-13*

This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

One day Jesus told his disciples this parable:

“This is what the reign of God is like.

One evening there was a wedding,
and ten bridesmaids came to wait
for the bride and bridegroom.

Now five of these bridesmaids were very silly.

They brought their lamps

but didn't bring enough oil to keep them burning.

The other five were very wise.

They brought enough oil to last all night long.

“The groom was late,

and so all ten bridesmaids fell asleep.

But at midnight, someone shouted,

‘Wake up! The bridegroom is here!

Come out to meet him!’

“The bridesmaids woke up and got their lamps ready.

The five foolish ones said to the others,

‘Give us some of your oil

because our lamps are going out.’

“But the wise bridesmaids said,

‘We can't give you any

because there won't be enough
for our lamps and yours, too.

But hurry, go into town and buy some.’

“While the foolish bridesmaids were gone,

the bridegroom came,

and everyone went into the wedding feast.

When the five foolish bridesmaids came back,

they couldn't get in

because the door was already locked.

[“They called in, ‘Open the door for us!’

But the bridegroom said,

‘No, I don't know you!’”]

Then Jesus said,

“Always be ready,

for you do not know when the Lord will come!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

[] Reader may omit text that appears in brackets.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS
WITH CHILDREN:

Ask the children what they heard.

- What is the story about?
- When did it take place?
- Who was there?
- What were they doing?
- What time did the bridegroom come?

You will need to explain to the children that it was customary for the groom to come to the home of the bride and take her to his home where the feast was usually held. Frequently, the bridesmaids waited for the groom and accompanied him to the home of the bride and back for the feast.

Everyone went in the wedding procession with lighted oil lamps. So everyone had to bring enough oil to keep their lamps burning for a long time. It should be explained that locking the doors of the house meant using wooden bars—it was not a simple chore. Once the doors were shut they weren't opened again.

Now to return to the story:

- What do you remember about the ten bridesmaids?
- Why were five of them called “wise bridesmaids”?

Help the children see the difference between knowledge and wisdom.

- What did Jesus say after he told this story?
- What does he want us to do now from this story?