

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.'

### THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

Notice the Eucharistic overtones in today's Gospel: the themes of “wedding” and “table” where, the master himself serves the guests as at the Last Supper. “*See that you are dressed for action*” is also a clear reference to the Passover Meal. Jesus directly associates the Paschal meal with the waiting for his return. And it is true, that whenever we celebrate the Eucharist, we always do so, in readiness to greet the Lord when he comes again. At the consecration we cry out: ***Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again!***

As Christians, there must be a healthy tension in our lives. On one hand, we are called to rejoice in faith, confident that God's reign has begun and yet, on the other hand, we must not become complacent, as we still await the Lord's return in glory. Our words and actions, our very lives must reflect Christ's victory over sin and death, but in faith we must remain vigilant and ready to greet the Master when he comes again.

### 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.

### 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.

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# NINETEENTH SUNDAY

*Year C*

**10<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

### ***You Must Stand Ready, Strong in Faith***

Remember, in St Luke's Gospel, Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem, a spiritual journey coming to know and fulfilling the Father's will & we are being invited to accompany him on this road leading to life. Over these Sundays we are listening to random, but important sayings of Jesus, all connected to the End Times. Last week we heard that we must endeavour to make ourselves rich in the sight of God and today there is an urgency in Jesus's words: “See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit” ready to greet the Lord when he comes again.

### 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.

### FIRST READING: WISDOM 18: 6-9

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

The Book of Wisdom is attributed to King Solomon (991 BC), but in fact, it is much later, written in the last century BC, influenced greatly by modern Greek thought. In today's short passage the author reflects on the night of the Exodus, when God led his enslaved people to freedom. The author is clear however, that this incident is more than just punishing the Egyptians. No, through this act, God is calling Israel to become his people in a special way. In recognizing this, they must live their lives accordingly. We too, have entered into a special bond with God through the death and resurrection of his beloved Son, and just like the Israelite's freed from bondage, we too must reflect this in the way we live our lives.

**PSALM: 33(32):1,12. 18-19. 20, 22. 12**

**Response:** *Blessed the people the Lord has chosen as his heritage.*

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.

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.

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.

#### SECOND READING: HEBREWS 11: 1-2, 8-19

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

Today we begin a series of four passages from Hebrews commencing from chapter 11 (The majority of this Letter is read in Year B). The author is unknown, possibly Apollos or Barnabas, but it was written around AD 67-70 for a Jewish Christian audience and the writing emphasizes the supremacy of Jesus Christ, revealer and mediator of God's grace. Over the coming weeks we are going to reflect on 'faith' and today's passage begins with a hymn to faith. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, are praised for their faith, through which they already share in the rewards of God.

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Stay awake and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Alleluia!*

#### GOSPEL: LUKE 12: 35-40

Jesus said to his disciples, '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