

NOVEMBER 12, 2017



# THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



WISDOM 6:12-16

PSALM 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

THESSALONIANS 4:13-18 OR 4:13-14

MATTHEW 25:1-13

## REFLECTION

Today's Gospel reading offers us an interesting parable. The Kingdom of God is compared to a wedding feast, in which some of the bridesmaids are not properly prepared for the groom (Christ). Those bridesmaids try to rush their preparations after the groom has arrived, but it is already too late. The final line of the parable quoted above reminds us that we won't get special notice when Christ will return. The Judgment day could be centuries from now, or tomorrow—we have no way of knowing. All of the readings today point to the concept of anticipation—this idea of waiting, *longing* for God. The First Reading speaks about keeping vigil, waiting for wisdom. The Second Reading describes the eventual peace and joy that we shall experience when Christ returns. And the psalm is, in my opinion, one of the most striking. The antiphon sings: "My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God" (see Psalm 63:2b). That line sounds nice, somewhat poetic even. But in truth, it's not the best translation for what the original Hebrew meant. In Hebrew, the word "thirsting" was closer to "parched," to the point of literally almost choking from lack of water. Imagine that: "My soul is parched to the point of choking for you, my God!" I find this image to be so powerful—there is a part of us that *wants* to believe and to see God. And so we have this anticipation, not simply of something in the near future, but rather anticipation for something here and now.

## ACTION

Have you ever done anything to mark the days before something you were looking forward to? Maybe the last day of school, or your birthday, or some other celebration? What if, rather than marking the time on a calendar or on your phone, you marked each day with actions? Pick a simple action, like smiling and saying hello to a neighbor or someone you encounter, or practicing a random act of kindness each day. If you did this until Christ's return, wouldn't all of those small actions be better than simply a calendar of checkmarks? Try to commit to one simple action for a single week.

## JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- What do you anticipate the most right now? Why?
- What is one action that you are prepared to commit to for a week? Are you willing to try to commit to it for longer?