

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 10, 2025

**Night of the Passover.**

**Faith, evidence of things not seen.**

**Be alert, aware.**

-rvb.

Reading 1

Wisdom 18:6-9

The night of the **Passover** was known beforehand to our fathers,  
that, with sure knowledge of the oaths in which they put their **faith**,  
they might have courage.

Your people awaited the salvation of the just  
and the destruction of their foes.

For when you punished our adversaries,  
in this you glorified us whom you had summoned.

For in secret the holy children of the good were offering sacrifice  
and putting into effect with one accord the divine institution.

**A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.**

Wisdom speaks eloquently of the covenant God whose message is buried deeply in the Israelite's primary deposit of memories and stories. The Passover is rekindled in their hearts to instill courage, faith, and hope. The virtuous will not be harmed or destroyed. The punishment of the wicked is necessary for the vindication and glorification of the just. Egypt wanes in

**its importance and power, while the Jews live on to celebrate the saving and life-giving grace of this covenant God who is with and for them.**

**The treasure discovered by the Israelites is far more valuable than silver and gold. Their discovery is the “Kiddush” or “Kiddish” (Blessing for the Sabbath, “We remember them,” a Jewish Mourner’s Prayer): “This is the first day of holy gatherings, a reminder of the Exodus from Egypt. Because You chose us to be holy among all peoples, willingly and with love, You gave us Your holy Sabbath to inherit. Blessed are You Lord, who makes the Sabbath holy.”**

**Let us pray the Kiddush.**

**“At the sun rises and it’s going down, we remember them.**

**At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.**

**At the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.**

**At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.**

**At the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.**

**At the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.**

**When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.**

**When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.**

**When we have joy, we desire to share, we remember them.**

**When we have decisions to make, we remember them.**

**When we have achievements that are based on theirs, we remember them.**

**As long as we live, they too will live, for they are part of us, as we remember them.”**

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22**

**R. (12b) Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

Exult, you just, in the LORD;

praise from the upright is fitting.

Blessed the nation whose God is the LORD,

the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.

**R. Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,

upon those who hope for his kindness,

To deliver them from death

and preserve them in spite of famine.

**R. Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

Our soul waits for the LORD,

who is our help and our shield.

May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us

who have put our hope in you.

**R. Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

### **Reading 2**

**Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**Faith** is the realization of what is hoped for  
and evidence of things not seen.

**Because of it the ancients were well attested.**

**By faith** Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place

that he was to receive as an inheritance;  
he went out, not knowing where he was to go.  
By **faith** he sojourned in the promised land as in a foreign country,  
dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs of the same promise;  
for he was looking forward to the city with foundations,  
whose architect and maker is God.

By **faith** he received power to generate,  
even though he was past the normal age  
—and Sarah herself was sterile—  
for he thought that the one who had made the promise was  
trustworthy.

So it was that there came forth from one man,  
himself as good as dead,  
descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky  
and as countless as the sands on the seashore.

All these died in **faith**.  
They did not receive what had been promised  
but saw it and greeted it from afar  
and acknowledged themselves to be strangers and aliens on earth,  
for those who speak thus show that they are seeking a homeland.  
If they had been thinking of the land from which they had come,  
they would have had opportunity to return.  
But now they desire a better homeland, a heavenly one.  
Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God,  
for he has prepared a city for them.

By **faith** Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac,  
and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son,  
of whom it was said,  
“Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name.”  
He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead,  
and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

**A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.**

**The buried treasure chest is unearthed and opened and inside is found the precious jewel of Faith which is mentioned 6 times in this reading from Hebrews as a response to the Hellenistic Jewish Christians who are tempted to resort to their former ways. The reading reveals the history of the Israelite nation focusing on key pivotal figures who respond in faith to God's word and win divine approval and its blessing. Jesus Christ is the ultimate buried treasure. In Jesus, the fullness of life and love are fulfilled. He is the Alpha and Omega, and the ultimate Word of God made flesh. In Jesus, the treasure hunt has ended. We need not explore any further. He is within our reach, accessible to anyone and everyone.**

**In this reading from Hebrews, we have a memorable and profound definition of faith – “Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.”**

**Faith is an encounter with God in which a taste of his goodness enables us to trust in him even without the evidence necessary to convince a skeptic. Likewise, the Patriarchs (Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Jacob) were asked to trust God without much supporting evidence, and by the depth, courage, and confidence of their faith, they still speak encouragement to us.**

**As mentioned, faith is mentioned 6 times in this reading, here are, for your reflection, 6 other insightful, thought-provoking, and varied perspectives of faith for your review and reflection:**

- 1. “Faith means being grasped by a power that is greater than we are, a power that shakes us and turns us, and transforms and heals us.” – Paul Tillich.**
- 2. “To choose what is difficult all one’s days as if it were easy, that is faith.” – poet, W.H. Auden.**
- 3. “Faith is not a momentary feeling but a struggle against the discouragement that threatens us every time we meet with resistance.” – Bakole wa Ilumga, Catholic Archbishop in Zaire.**
- 4. “Faith faces everything that makes the world uncomfortable – pain, fear, loneliness, shame, death – and acts with a compassion by which these things are transformed, even exalted.” Samuel H. Miller, Protestant minister.**
- 5. “Faith brings God back into the world, into our lives...To have faith in God is to reveal what is concealed.” – Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.**

6. “True faith can only grow and mature if it includes the elements of paradox and creative doubt. Such doubt is not the enemy of faith but an essential element of it. For faith in God does not bring the false peace of answered questions and resolved paradoxes.” – Kenneth Leech, Anglican priest.

Alleluia

[Matthew 24:42a, 44](#)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Stay awake and be ready!

For you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

[Luke 12:32-48](#)

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not be afraid any longer, little flock,  
for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.

**Sell your belongings and give alms.**

Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out,  
an inexhaustible treasure in heaven  
that no thief can reach nor moth destroy.

For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

**“Gird your loins and light your lamps**

**and be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding,  
ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.**

Blessed are those servants

whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival.

Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself,

have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them.

And should he come in the second or third watch

and find them prepared in this way,  
blessed are those servants.

Be sure of this:

if the master of the house had known the hour

when the thief was coming,

he would not have let his house be broken into.

You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect,  
the Son of Man will come.”

**Then Peter said,**

**“Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?”**

And the Lord replied,

“Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward  
whom the master will put in charge of his servants  
to distribute the food allowance at the proper time?

Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so.

Truly, I say to you, the master will put the servant  
in charge of all his property.

But if that servant says to himself,

‘My master is delayed in coming,’

and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants,  
to eat and drink and get drunk,

then that servant’s master will come

on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour

and will punish the servant severely

and assign him a place with the unfaithful.

**That servant who knew his master’s will**

**but did not make preparations nor act in accord with his will**

**shall be beaten severely;**

and the servant who was ignorant of his master’s will

but acted in a way deserving of a severe beating

shall be beaten only lightly.

**Much will be required of the person entrusted with much,**

**and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.”**

**A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.**



**Luke encourages the reader to “Keep your belts fastened...your lamps be burning ready...so that when he arrives and knocks, you will open for him without delay.” Keep one eye ON your destination, and one eye on your WAY to your destination. Here is such a story. A young man traveled across the world to have an audience with a “Sensei” or martial artist. “What do you desire?” asked the master. “I wish to be your student and become the finest karate expert in the land,” the boy replied. “How long must I study?” The master replied, “Ten years at least.” “Ten years is a long time,” responded the boy. “What if I studied twice as hard as all your other students?” “Twenty years,” replied the master. “Twenty years! What if I practice day and night with all my heart and soul?” “Thirty years,” was the master’s reply. “How is it that each time I say I will work harder, you tell me that it will take longer?” the boy asked. The master responded, “The answer is clear. When one eye is fixed ON the destination, there is only one eye left to find your WAY.” There must be a balance between the “Already and Not yet,” between letting go and disciplining ourselves, between our destination and getting there.**

**Jesus encourages his readers to search for a heavenly home while making our home along the way heavenly. Be ready, prepared, and**

vigilant. Live simply so others may simply live – “Sell your possessions.” Do not be distracted by earthly concerns and possessions. However, these distractions may take on a heavenly dimension. The Messianic era has begun, now is the time for this to be realized - men, women, and children becoming saintlier. All of life is injected with the grace of God, for all the way to God is God. The Now will melt into the future, and the future will blossom into the Eternal Now. Be alert, awake, aware, and focus on the Now.

**Final prayer:** God, your son, Jesus calls us to be faithful and vigilant. Faith makes all happenings possible, and love fulfills them. May your Holy Spirit awaken our hearts, minds, and souls to be ready for the coming of your Son in whom we live, move, and have our being.

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