



Living in the Spirit  
◆ **32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time**

***Call to Prayer and Sharing***

❖ *Invitation to Prayer - Leader*

Let us begin,  
Now, here in this place  
With a moment of silence  
to reflect,  
to focus,  
to be attentive to ourselves,  
to one another,  
and to the presence of Christ.

May the Lord come and increase our faith. *(reflective pause)*

❖ *Opening Song - If time allows, sing a familiar hymn or song.*

❖ *Then: "In the name of the Father and of the Son . . . ."*

***The Word of God***

❖ *Leader: Let us welcome God's Word into our hearts.*

○ *Sing to the melody of "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow".*

Open our minds to, know you Lord;  
Open our hearts to, hear your voice;  
Open our hearts now, to your Word;  
Come to us now, O Lord, our God.

**From Matthew 5:1 – 13**

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins  
who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.  
Five of them were foolish and five were wise.  
The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them,  
but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.  
Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.  
At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'  
Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.  
The foolish ones said to the wise,  
'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'  
But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you.  
Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.'  
While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came  
and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him.  
Then the door was locked.  
Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!'  
But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'  
Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Word of the Lord...

- ❖ *At the conclusion of the reading, briefly pause for quiet reflection.*

**Faith Sharing/Question of the Week** (consider sharing on either question)

- ❖ **Adult:** How do you keep yourself ready for the coming of God into your life?
- ❖ **Mixed Ages:** What can you do each day to prepare for Jesus coming into your life?

*Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow a few minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of 3 or 4 for faith sharing.*

- ❖ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*

**Litany of Faith**

- Leader:** Christ Jesus, keep us watchful for the time of your kingdom, for we do not know the day or the hour of your coming.
- All:** Help us to stay awake, O Lord, and be ready for your reign.
- Leader:** Christ Jesus, keep us attentive for the many sign you gave us, for we do not know the day or the hour of your coming.
- All:** Help us to stay awake, O Lord, and be ready for your reign.
- Leader:** Christ Jesus, keep us vigilant in our working for justice and peace, for we do not know the day or the hour of your coming.
- All:** Help us to stay awake, O Lord, and be ready for your reign.

**The Lord's Prayer**

- Leader:** Let us pray together:
- All:** Gracious God,  
we know that you are with us here,  
and we have taken your Word into our hearts.  
You call us all to conversion,  
we who are here in this place,  
and we who are now ready to welcome you into our lives.  
We are ready,  
we are willing,  
and we are yours.  
So we surrender to you  
our aches and longings into one as we pray:  
Our Father...

**Continue with the Meeting**

**Final Blessing**

- Leader:** Now let us bless one another:
- All:** May God bless and keep us, may God smile upon us.  
May God show us kindness, fill us with peace.  
And may God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;  
may we always love and serve,  
filled with God's Peace. Amen.
- Leader:** *Conclude the meeting or sing a closing song.*

**Reflection Question to take home for the week:** How has this Word touched or challenged my understanding of God? About faith? About the Church?