



Liturgy Cycle C

Nineteenth Sunday Of The Year

Watchful Servants

Introduction

Today's Gospel says that both Jesus and the thief come to us 'at an hour we least expect'. But there the similarity ends. The thief comes to rob us. Jesus comes to surprise us with his gifts. Like faithful servants we must be always on the alert for his coming. But are we? Do we not often live carelessly and foolishly, as if we were not accountable to God for our lives?

First Reading (Wisdom 18:6-9)

This reading recalls that, when [he Jews suffered in Egypt, God came to their rescue. Those who put their trust in the Lord will not be disappointed.

Second Reading (Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19)

This recalls the magnificent faith that Abraham had in God. Little wonder that in one of the Eucharistic prayers we refer to him as 'our father in faith'

Gospel (Luke 12:32-48)

This contains among other things the parable of the waiting servants. It urges a constant watchfulness and faithfulness.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray for the grace to follow the warning of the Gospel, so that when Christ comes to us in life or in death we may be ready for him and welcome him with joy.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

Christ says: 'Fear not! That Christians may follow him out of love and never out of fear. We ask this in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

Christ says: 'Keep your belts fastened': that our leaders may lead not just by word but also by example. We ask this in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

Christ says: 'Keep your lamps burning': for those who live foolishly and recklessly as if they were accountable to no one for their conduct. We ask this in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.



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Christ says: 'Stay awake!' that we may be saved from laziness and all forms of apathy so that we may not squander life's opportunities. We ask this in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

Communion Reflection

**The trouble with Christ is
that he often comes at the wrong time,
and often wearing the wrong kind of clothes.**

**The other day he came to my door.
He couldn't have come at a worse time.
I had a hundred and one things to do.
He just stood there,
a faint smile on his face.**

**I didn't ask him to come in,
in case he might decide to stay all day.
Eventually I said: 'What do you want?'
'Nothing, I was just passing by.'
So I thought I'd drop in and say "hello",' he replied.
Sensing my mood, he excused himself and went away.**

**When he was gone I was mad with myself.
Though he said he didn't want anything,
I'm sure he did want something.
He just wanted a little companionship.
But I refused him with the excuse that I was too busy.**

Ah, if only he had come at a more suitable time.