The Living Word

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 15 November 2026

First Reading Prv 31:10-13.19-20.30-31

Give her a share in what she has worked for.

A perfect wife – who can find her?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.
She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff,
her fingers grasp the spindle.
She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.
Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 127:1-5. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. ***(R.)***

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. ***(R.)***

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. ***(R.)***

Second Reading 1 Thes 5:1-6

The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 15:4. 5

Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you,
says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 25:14-30

Because you have been faithful over a few things, enter into the joy of the Lord.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."'

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Reflection *by Fr Michael Tate*

God's plan for human happiness is mostly frustrated by a good person burying his or her personality traits, what one might call one's talents, which is really to bury oneself and to become invisible.

In the old language of my schoolboy catechism, we should be concerned not just with sins of commission, but with sins of *omission* – failure of courage, failure to take risks, failure to put everything on the line with the personality and the moment in time given to you and to me.

As Shakespeare says in Julius Caesar:

'There is a tide in the affairs of men

which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;

omitted, all the voyage of their life

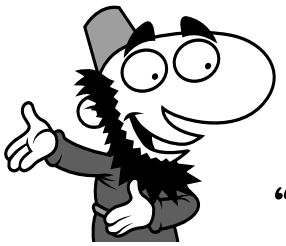
is bound in stillness and in miseries.'

The Divine Tide is flowing through human history. We should trust ourselves to that tide which can carry us to the shores of Heaven. Failure to take risks leads to Hellish stillness and miseries.

We could pause for a moment to pray that we might use our talents so as to hear: 'Well done, good and faithful servant … come and join in your Master's happiness.'



St Margaret of Scotland *was in fact thought to be born in Hungary and was brought to England as a young girl in 1057. She fled to Scotland after the Norman conquest of England and in 1070 married King Malcolm III. Margaret was a deeply religious woman and as queen she was able to bring about necessary reforms to the Scottish church and in doing so, brought it into line with the Western church. She also used her influence to help ordinary people by establishing schools, hospitals and orphanages.*



COMPLETE THE TEXT MAZE

"Come and share in my happiness!"

START

C	O	M	N	R	Y	I	L	E	J
N	M	S	D	S	H	N	D	O	M
L	E	A	N	L	A	K	X	T	I
V	X	R	I	E	R	S	I	N	E
T	I	D	N	J	A	P	P	L	S
M	E	O	M	Y	H	R	E	K	S

FINISH

Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



away
charge
faithful
five
happiness
little
money
more
servant
share
thousand
three

G	V	W	V	G	G	Z	Z	A	D	R	O	V	A
Q	A	P	Q	V	X	U	O	R	D	P	D	J	W
U	W	T	O	H	K	F	M	G	D	Z	B	C	A
X	M	O	N	E	Y	Z	C	Y	W	T	R	S	Y
T	E	A	Q	I	D	G	H	V	G	T	P	B	E
P	J	A	I	F	N	N	A	I	I	H	A	H	H
M	O	R	E	F	W	A	R	L	I	R	I	M	M
M	Y	G	C	Y	C	J	G	I	F	E	M	Q	N
S	E	R	V	A	N	T	E	T	I	E	H	Z	M
G	H	Q	K	V	P	J	J	T	V	F	C	K	K
W	L	G	W	Z	B	J	Q	L	E	G	I	U	F
U	Y	B	J	T	N	L	A	E	V	S	D	D	X
T	H	O	U	S	A	N	D	S	H	A	R	E	D
W	Z	J	G	H	A	P	P	I	N	E	S	S	I
A	F	A	I	T	H	F	U	L	Q	F	E	Z	M