The Living Word

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A *8 November 2026*

First Reading Wis 6:12-16

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her,
she makes herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no
trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding
fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will
quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those
who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as
they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet
them.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you,
O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. *(R.)*

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary.
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. *(R.)*

3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. *(R.)*

4. On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. *(R.)*

Second Reading 1 Thes 4:13-18

Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 24:42. 44

Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man
is coming.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 25:1-13

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone of to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

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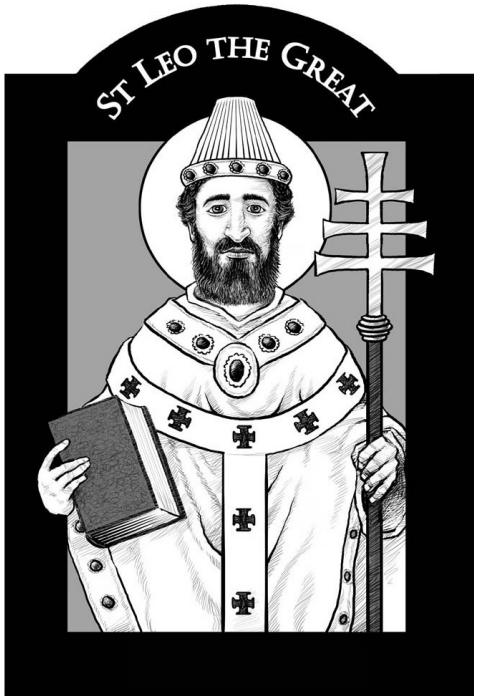
Reflection *by Fr Michael Tate*

Israel was often portrayed as a bride in Jewish scriptures. So, the question was: 'When would the Bridegroom – the Anointed One of God, the Christ – appear?' Jesus' warning is to the attendants of the bride: 'Be alert, be vigilant, be prepared.' *Some* (the five foolish attendants) did miss the moment: the earthly ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.

But his warning is also for the Catholic Church which is the new Bride of Christ. We are the attendants to the Bride and the imperative applies to us also: Be alert, be vigilant. Be prepared for the eruption, the intervention of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, into *our* history, into *our* moment of time.

For example, is Christ coming to meet us in the modern movements which demand to hold authority accountable, or which press for just recognition of women? We can foolishly remain in the dark or we can wisely try to throw light on these questions. Only then we will be able to discern whether indeed it is the Lord who is approaching.

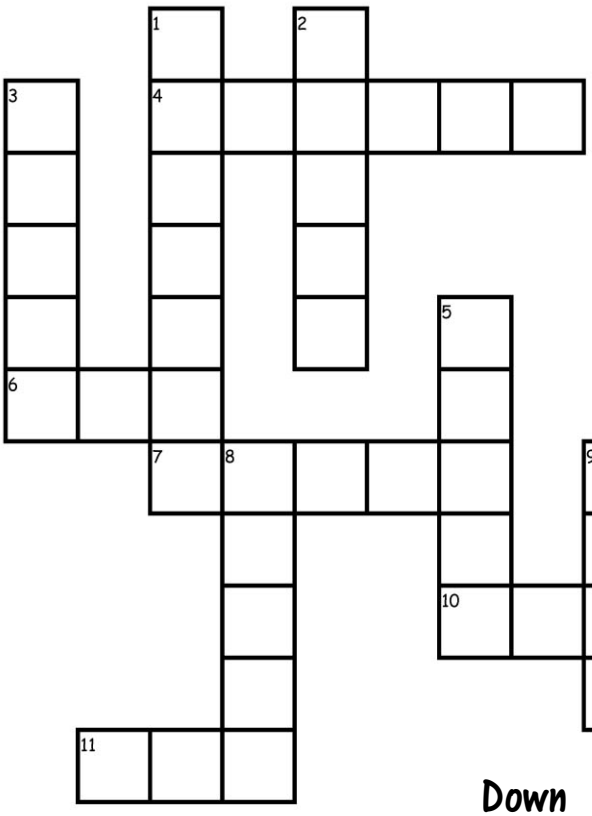
We could pause to pray that we be ready when the Bridegroom responds to the ancient prayer: 'Come, Lord Jesus!'



St Leo the Great *was the pope for twenty years from the year 440. During his pontificate he defended Rome from the barbarian conquerer, Atilla the Hun, by convincing him to accept tribute from the city rather than sacking it. St Leo's greatest triumph as pope came from the acceptance of his dogmatic letter, which taught that Jesus Christ is one Person, in whom both human and divine nature are permanently united. Almost one hundred of his letters and sermons still survive; he was declared a doctor of the church in 1754.*

CROSSWORD





Across

4: there wasn't e_ _ _ _ h oil for all of the lamps

6: this many girls went to meet the groom

7: a bride's husband-to-be

9: the liquid that was needed for the lamps

10: you do this when you get tired

11: to purchase

Down

1: when people get married they have one of these

2: these were closed when the foolish girls returned

3: the time when the sky is dark

5: the ten girls used these to see in the dark

8: prepared

9: to enter a room first you must do this to the door

What words would you use to describe the wise girls and the foolish girls?

The wise girls

The foolish girls

