

Daily Prayer

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
The Year of Matthew



Readings: Wisdom 6: 12–16; Psalm 62: 2–8; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13–14; Matthew 25: 1–13.

Using Daily Prayer

The following daily prayers can be used in their entirety or adapted to meet the needs of the audience. The prayers draw on the Sunday readings, so you may use any of the prayers on any day, although special focus will be given to Feast days, Solemnities and days of cultural significance. Feel free to adapt the prayers for special occasions or specific intentions of your own class and school.

Overview of the Week

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer
Monday – Green	<i>Wisdom is radiant and unfading and is found by those who seek her.</i>	Praying with the First Reading Reflection Blessing
Tuesday – Green	<i>Stay awake, for you do not know the hour or the day.</i>	Praying with the Gospel Reflection Responsory Prayer
Wednesday – Green	<i>My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, my God.</i>	Praying with the Responsorial Psalm Responding in Song
Thursday – Green	<i>We believe that Christ died and rose from the dead.</i>	Praying with the Second Reading Entrance Antiphon Reflection
Friday – Green	<i>Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.</i>	Praying with the Gospel Prayers of the Faithful Our Father Sign of Peace

Suggested Teacher Background for the Readings

- Liturgy Help: [Commentaries](#)
- Liturgy Help: [Homilies & Reflections](#)
- Loyola Press: [Sunday Connection](#)
- The Emmaus Series: [Sunday Reflections](#).



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Today's Daily Prayer – The wisdom of God

Today's prayer focuses on the First Reading. **Preparation:** Each person present will need a small piece of card about 6 cm x 4 cm and a pen/pencil. Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

Monday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Light candle and pause.

Leader: All wisdom comes from the Lord, and wisdom is with him forever.

All: **God is wise and pours out his wisdom on those who seek him.**

Background to the First Reading

The Book of Wisdom was written in the first century BC in Alexandria, Egypt, by a Jewish person who had a Hellenistic (Greek) background. It was written to support the younger generation, who were slipping away from their Jewish heritage. In this book, the writer personifies Wisdom as a young woman who is radiant and unfading, and who is to be loved and desired. The author urges everyone to love righteousness and to seek Wisdom, since those who do not love what is right are doomed to be unhappy. Wisdom is indispensable to rulers and leaders and is to be highly sought after, for Wisdom comes from God and reflects God's power and goodness.

Listen

Leader: Let us listen attentively to the Word of God.

Reader: A reading from the book of Wisdom.

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,

and she is easily discerned by those who love her,

and is found by those who seek her.

She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.

One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,

for she will be found sitting at the gate.



To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Reflection

Leader: Imagine you are one of the young people listening to this being read to you. What words or phrases resonate with you most? Let these words or phrases sink into your heart and mind.

(Pause)

On your card, write yourself a reminder about God's wisdom that you can keep with you this week, e.g. 'God's wisdom is what I will seek' or 'God's wisdom will direct my decisions'.

(Allow time for writing)

Let us pray quietly that we seek God's wisdom in the choices we make, in our interactions with others, in our decisions as leaders.

Time for quiet reflection ...

Go Forth

Blessing

Leader: May God's wisdom be our constant guide and companion now and every day.

All: Amen.

Leader: May God's wisdom direct us to go forth in the knowledge that our lives are formed in faith, hope and love in the light of Christ.

Extinguish candle and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Today's Daily Prayer – Be ready

In today's prayer, we will focus on the Gospel. **Preparation:** Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

Tuesday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the Word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us attend to this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Leader: As we light this candle, we pray that we are ready for the coming of the Lord by living out the Gospel message each and every day.

Light candle and pause.

Background to the Gospel

Weddings appear often in Gospel stories and are an occasion that ordinary people would be familiar with. In the time of Jesus, the bridegroom would go to the bride's house and finish up any further negotiations with the bride's father regarding her dowry (this is why there was no definite time for the bridegroom to arrive back at his father's house). Once this was concluded, the bridegroom would return to his father's house where the wedding ceremony and reception would take place. Women who were sisters or cousins of the bridegroom would walk back with him and would have to ensure that they had enough oil in their lamps to light the way.

Listen

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Reader: 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.'

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Reflective Questions

Leader: You cannot be totally committed, sometimes.
Living the Gospel requires commitment every day.
How will you live the Gospel today?
How will you be ready when the Lord comes?

Time for quiet reflection ...

Go Forth

Responsory Prayer

Leader: We pray for the gift of true sight, that we might clearly see the people we sometimes miss.

All: Lord, give us your vision.

Leader: We pray for conviction, that we might faithfully live the gospel.

All: Lord, give us your conviction.

Leader: We pray for the gift of service, that we might bend low and empty ourselves as you did.

All: Lord, give us your servant heart.

Leader: We pray for the gift of hope, that we might wait with trust for rebirth, growth, promise.

All: Lord, we pray for your gift of hope.

Leader: We pray for the gift of wisdom, that we might make compassionate and just decisions.

All: Lord, give us your wisdom.

Leader: We go forth in the knowledge that our lives are formed in faith, hope and love in the light of Christ.

Extinguish candle and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Wednesday

Today's Daily Prayer – My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, my God

Today we pray with the Responsorial Psalm. **Preparation:** Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Short Responsory Prayer

Leader: Let us come with hearts full of joy.

All: Amen, amen!

Leader: Let us come with hearts full of hope.

All: Amen, amen!

Leader: Let us come with hearts full of faith.

All: Amen, amen!

Light candle and pause.

Background to the Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 62 is a morning psalm in which the psalmist, King David, is calling for God to come close. David is in the desert as the imagery in the psalm suggests, fleeing with his loyal followers from his son Absalom, who is leading a rebellion against him. Despite all this, David writes a most beautiful and very heartfelt psalm to God, speaking of his need for God, crying out in praise and glory. David thanks God for his constant love and protection, knowing that in the shadow of God's wings he will be safe.

Listen

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God, and treat the text with reverence.

Leader: Let us pray together the Responsorial Psalm.

Reader: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, my God.



All: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, my God.

Reader: O God, you are my God whom I seek;
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

All: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, my God.

Reader: Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary
to see your power and your glory,
for your kindness is a greater good than life;
my lips shall glorify you.

All: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, my God.

Reader: Thus will I bless you while I live;
lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied,
and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

All: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, my God.

Reader: I will remember you upon my couch,
and through the night-watches I will meditate on you:
you are my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.

All: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, my God.

Respond

Leader: Prayer in the morning can set the tone of the day and, while it may not provide an anxiety-free day, it can give us a sense that we don't face it alone.

Let us pray a morning prayer in song:

[‘The deer’s cry’](#) by Lisa Kelly.

Go Forth

Leader: O Lord, you are our hope and joy.

All: Be with us as we go forth.

Leader: O Lord, you are our strength and courage.

All: Be with us as we go forth.

Leader: O Lord, you are our guiding light.

All: Be with us as we go forth in the knowledge that our lives are formed in faith, hope and love in the light of Christ.

Extinguish candle and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Today's Daily Prayer – We believe that Christ died and rose

Today's prayer focuses on the Second Reading. **Preparation:** Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

Thursday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Light candle and pause.

Leader: Let us pray together the Entrance Antiphon from the Mass of last Sunday.

All: **Let my prayer come into your presence.**

Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

Background to the Second Reading

This week, we continue to read from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians. In this reading, the Thessalonians are struggling with the question about what happens to those who have died before the Second Coming. At this time, the early Christians believed that Christ would come again in their lifetime, that this event was imminent. As it became more obvious that this was not going to happen soon, they had questions about their deceased loved ones. Paul encourages them to have hope because, just as Jesus has overcome death, so God will bring their loved ones to himself.

Listen

Leader: Let us listen to this reading from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians.

Reader: We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,
about those who have fallen asleep,
so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
so too will God, through Jesus,
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

(Pause)



This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Reflection

Leader: Take some time now to reflect on these words from Saint Paul.

Re-read the passage.

How does this reading give you hope for those who have died?

How does it give you hope for your own death?

Time for quiet reflection ...

Go Forth

Leader: Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me will live,

even though they die;

and all those who live and believe in me

will never die.'

All: We go forth in the knowledge that our lives are formed in faith, hope and love in the light of Christ.

Extinguish candle and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Today's Daily Prayer – Stay awake! Be ready!

Today's prayer focuses on the Gospel. **Preparation:** Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

Friday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Light candle and pause.

Leader: Loving and gracious God, like smoke on the wind, may our prayers rise up to you and be received with love and mercy.

All: **Amen.**

Background to the Gospel

Weddings appear often in Gospel stories and are an occasion that ordinary people would be familiar with. In the time of Jesus, the bridegroom would go to the bride's house and finish up any further negotiations with the bride's father regarding her dowry (this is why there was no definite time for the bridegroom to arrive back at his father's house). Once this was concluded, the bridegroom would return to his father's house where the wedding ceremony and reception would take place. Women who were sisters or cousins of the bridegroom would walk back with him and would have to ensure that they had enough oil in their lamps to light the way.

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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.’

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: We bring our prayers before you, loving God, knowing you will always listen.

Reader: That we may be prepared for your coming by being people of compassion and justice.
(Pause) Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, give us your wisdom.

Reader: That we may be prepared for your coming by being people of love and peace.
(Pause) Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, give us your wisdom.

Reader: That we may be prepared for your coming by being people of mercy and forgiveness.
(Pause) Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, give us your wisdom.

Reader: That we may be prepared for your coming by being people of generosity and kindness.
(Pause) Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, give us your wisdom.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: In faith and hope, let us pray together the Lord's Prayer.

All: Our Father ...

Leader: Loving God, with hope and faith, we ask you to accept the prayers we make to you.

All: Amen.

Go Forth

Sign of Peace

Leader: As we come to the end of another week, let us offer each other a sign of peace.

(Sign of peace)

Let us go forth in the knowledge that our lives are formed in faith, hope and love in the light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Extinguish candle and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

