

Daily Prayer

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



Readings: Proverbs 31: 10–13, 19–20, 30–31; Psalm 127: 1–5; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1–6; Matthew 25: 14–30.

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>Well done, my good and faithful servant.</i> | Praying with the Gospel Reflection |
| Tuesday – White <i>Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> | <i>Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King who rules heaven and earth for ever.</i> | Entrance Antiphon Praying with the Responsorial Psalm Reflection Hail Mary |
| Wednesday – Green | <i>Her value is far beyond pearls.</i> | Praying with the First Reading Meditation Glory Be |
| Thursday – Green | <i>For all of you are children of the light.</i> | Praying with the Second Reading Entrance Antiphon Prayers of the Faithful Our Father |
| Friday – Green | <i>We are all gifted by God and called to use our gifts for others.</i> | Praying with the Gospel 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](#).



Daily Prayer

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



Readings: Proverbs 31: 10–13, 19–20, 30–31; Psalm 127: 1–5; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1–6; Matthew 25: 14–30.

Today's Daily Prayer – God gives us gifts and talents to be used, not hidden away

Today, we will focus on the Gospel. **Preparation:** 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: As we light this candle, let us thank God for the love showered upon us – a love so deep and true.

All: **We give thanks.**

Leader: A love so precious and so pure.

All: **We give thanks.**

Leader: A love freely and unconditionally given.

All: **We give thanks.**

Background to the Gospel

When Jesus was teaching the people, he would often use the literary device of the parable. A parable takes an image from the visible world (which the people would be familiar with) and uses it to teach something from the spiritual world. In other words, it is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. In the parable of the talents (a talent being a great amount of money – equivalent to 15 years wages), Jesus portrays God as a businessman who demands that his employees use their skills, knowledge and talents to do the best with what they have been given.

Listen

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

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."

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Reflection

Leader: I invite you to sit quietly and close your eyes. *(Pause)*

Imagine that God comes to you at the end of your life and asks you what you have done with the gifts and talents he has given you.

He asks you how you have used your gifts to make the world a better place.

What would your answer be?

Time for quiet reflection ...

Go Forth

Concluding Prayer

Leader: As we go forth this day, may we acknowledge the gifts we have been given and be mindful that we are called to use them to enrich the lives of others. Give us, Lord, the courage to take the risk to be all that we can be.

All: Amen.



Leader: May 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.



Daily Prayer

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



Readings: Proverbs 31: 10–13, 19–20, 30–31; Psalm 127: 1–5; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1–6; Matthew 25: 14–30.

Today's Daily Prayer – I love you, Lord, my strength

We will pray with the Entrance Antiphon from today's memorial, the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Sunday's Responsorial Psalm. **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: Let our hearts seek the Lord; may we turn to him and see his face.

Light candle and pause.

Entrance Antiphon

Leader: Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King who rules heaven and earth for ever.

Background to the Responsorial Psalm

This psalm would be prayed over a pilgrim who came to the temple to offer sacrifice. The mark of a prosperous man was someone who had a faithful, loving and fruitful wife and many children to increase his wealth. The psalmist uses two images from the culture of the time – the vine to represent the fruitful wife and the olive trees to characterise his productive offspring. The phrase 'fear the Lord' means to be in awe of, to respect and honour.

Listen

Leader: Let us pray the Responsorial Psalm.

Reader: Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

All: **Blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

Reader: Blessed are you who fear the Lord,
who walk in his ways!



For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;
blessed shall you be and favoured.

All: **Blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

Reader: Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine
in the recesses of your home;
your children like olive plants
around your table.

All: **Blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

Reader: Behold, thus is the man blessed
who fears the Lord.
The Lord bless you from Zion:
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

All: **Blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

Respond

Reflection

Leader: In today's Gospel (Mt 12: 46–50), we hear about the mother and brothers of Jesus. Extending his hands towards the disciples, Jesus said: 'Here are my mother and my brothers.'

Let us take the time now to pray for our family members.

In your mind, think of each person and pray for God's blessings on them, e.g. Mum, may God's love fill your heart and mind, and may you be richly blessed today and always.

Dad, may God's love fill your heart and mind, and may you be richly blessed today and always. Sister [name her], may God's love fill your heart and mind, and may you be richly blessed today and always.

If you are not close to your immediate family, perhaps you could pray for members of your extended family such as grandparents, cousins, etc. or pray for close friends.

Time for quiet reflection ...

Leader: As we celebrate the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I invite you to pray the Hail Mary.

Go Forth

Leader: May God's Spirit be with all families supporting them with love and blessings.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: May 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.**



Daily Prayer

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



Readings: Proverbs 31: 10–13, 19–20, 30–31; Psalm 127: 1–5; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1–6; Matthew 25: 14–30.

Wednesday

Today's Daily Prayer – Her value is far beyond pearls

Today, we pray with the First Reading. **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.**

Leader: As we light this candle, we remember that where two or three are gathered in Jesus' name, there he is in the midst.

All: **Amen.**

Light candle and pause.

Background to the First Reading

In ancient times, women were possessions owned by men and married for status, power or wealth. A woman had no voice, no authority, no standing in her community. Her role and expectations were very clear: to care for her husband and his household and to bear him many children, a sign of God's love. In this reading, we read the description of a wise and faithful wife, one who is valued more than precious pearls, a woman whose husband is proud of her and praises and respects her.

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 listen attentively to the First Reading.

Reader: A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

When one finds a worthy wife,

her value is far beyond pearls.

Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,

has an unfailing prize.



She brings him good, and not evil,
all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax
and works with loving hands.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hands to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her a reward for her labours,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Meditation

Leader: Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting. The person who respects and honours the Lord is to be praised.

Sit quietly with these words and let them sink into you. *(Pause)*

Repeat them slowly a few times to yourself. *(Pause)*

What is important in life, and what is not?

Time for quiet reflection ...

Go Forth

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Be with us Lord, 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.



Daily Prayer

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



Readings: Proverbs 31: 10–13, 19–20, 30–31; Psalm 127: 1–5; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1–6; Matthew 25: 14–30.

Today's Daily Prayer – Let us stay awake and prepare for the Lord

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: **The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.**

**You will call upon me, and I will answer you,
and I will lead back your captives from every place.**

Background to the Second Reading

In the early days of the Church, many Christians were overly concerned about Jesus' return as they thought it was imminent. In this reading (and in many of Jesus' teachings), Paul says not to worry about that, but to concentrate on living good lives. We do not know when Jesus will return, as he will come like a thief in the night when we least expect him. So we must always be prepared and live as if he were coming now.

Listen

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

Reader: Concerning times and seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need for anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night. When people are saying, 'Peace and security', then sudden disaster comes upon them, like labour pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to overtake you like a thief. For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober.

(Pause)



This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: Let us pray, O Lord, knowing that you always listen to our prayers.

Reader: For the wisdom to know you in many different ways: *(Pause)* O Lord, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the courage to live out your Word each day: *(Pause)* O Lord, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the confidence to ask for what we need: *(Pause)* O Lord, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the humility to acknowledge our sins and ask for forgiveness: *(Pause)*
O Lord, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the willingness to forgive others as we want to be forgiven: *(Pause)* O Lord, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the persistence we need when we call to you: *(Pause)* O Lord, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for any special intentions ... *(Pause)* O Lord, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray now the prayer that Jesus taught us.

All: Our Father ...

Go Forth

Leader: As we go forth this day, give us the grace we need to be Kingdom people, loving and forgiving, hope-filled and joyful, and compassionate and kind. We ask this through Jesus, your Son, our Lord.

All: Amen.

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.



Daily Prayer

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



Readings: Proverbs 31: 10–13, 19–20, 30–31; Psalm 127: 1–5; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1–6; Matthew 25: 14–30.

Today's Daily Prayer – We are gifted by God

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: As we light this candle, we remember that each one of us is unique and precious, created in God's image and gifted in special ways.

All: **Amen.**

Background to the Gospel

When Jesus was teaching the people, he would often use the literary device of the parable. A parable takes an image from the visible world (which the people would be familiar with) and uses it to teach something from the spiritual world. In other words, it is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. In the parable of the talents (a talent being a great amount of money – equivalent to 15 years wages), Jesus portrays God as a businessman who demands that his employees use their skills, knowledge and talents to do the best with what they have been given.

Listen

The Gospel

The sections highlighted can be used for a shorter version of the Gospel.

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

Reader: **Jesus told his disciples this parable:**

'A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one – to each according to his ability. Then he went away.'



Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, "Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more." His master said to him, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy."

Then the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, "Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more." His master said to him, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy."

Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, "Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back." His master said to him in reply, "You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return?"

Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth."

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Reflective Questions

Leader: The gifts we have are uniquely ours and not to be compared with others. We are called to live them out as fully and as well as we can for the benefit of the community.

What are your gifts and how do you use them to benefit the community?

Spend some time in quiet prayer asking God to help you use your gifts.

Time for quiet reflection ...

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.

