

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
12 November 2023 – Year A

**“Look, the bridegroom comes.
Go out to meet him.”**

Something to Think About

Jesus reminds his disciples to 'Be ready!' Some of the bridesmaids in today's story were extra prepared, but they did not share with those who had less. God gives gifts to each person to use for their own good but also to help others. God's kingdom calls us to be generous and compassionate, not to selfishly hold onto the things we have.

The Story

In today's gospel, ten bridesmaids all took their lamps ... but only five of them took extra oil. The bridegroom was late and the lamps needed to burn for longer than expected. The bridesmaids who took extra oil could keep their lamps lit. It is these women that the gospel calls 'wise'. The five who did not bring extra oil were called 'foolish'. They asked for help from those who had plenty - but were refused. They then went out, in the middle of the night and somehow, somewhere, found more oil. But while they were gone, the groom arrived and the doors to the wedding were closed.

The Scriptures

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told his disciples this story about the kingdom of heaven:

"The kingdom of heaven is like what happened one night when ten girls took their oil lamps and went to a wedding to meet the groom. Five of the girls were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps, but no extra oil. The ones who were wise took along extra oil for their lamps. "The groom was late arriving, and the girls became drowsy and fell asleep. Then in the middle of the night someone shouted,

'Here's the groom! Come to meet him!'

"When the girls got up and started getting their lamps ready, the foolish ones said to the others, 'Let us have some of your oil! Our lamps are going out.'

"The girls who were wise answered, 'There's not enough oil for all of us! Go and buy some for yourselves'.

"While the foolish girls were on their way to get some oil, the groom arrived. The girls who were ready went into the wedding, and the doors were closed.

Later the other girls returned and shouted, 'Sir, Sir! Open the door for us!'

"But the groom replied, 'I don't even know you!'

"So, my disciples, always be ready! You don't know the day or the time when all this will happen."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video.

[The Story of the Ten Bridesmaids](#)



Group Discussion

Since the bridegroom was late in arriving, five of the women ran out of oil for their lamps. Had the groom been on time, all the women would have had enough oil. These unexpected things happen in life! In today's world who is like the five 'wise' women? Who are the ones who have more than enough but refuse to share? Some countries each year destroy huge quantities of food - enough to feed the rest of the world!

Who is like the five 'foolish' women, needing to go out and find a way to achieve their goal because those who have plenty refused to share?

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray that our leaders will be fair and understanding. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for poor countries. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for those who die from hunger each day. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we may willingly share our gifts with others. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will be wise and always be ready for God. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
Open our eyes to the wonderful gifts we have received and teach us to be thankful. Help us to be generous and share what we have with others.
Amen.

Group Activity

Keep Your Lamps Burning

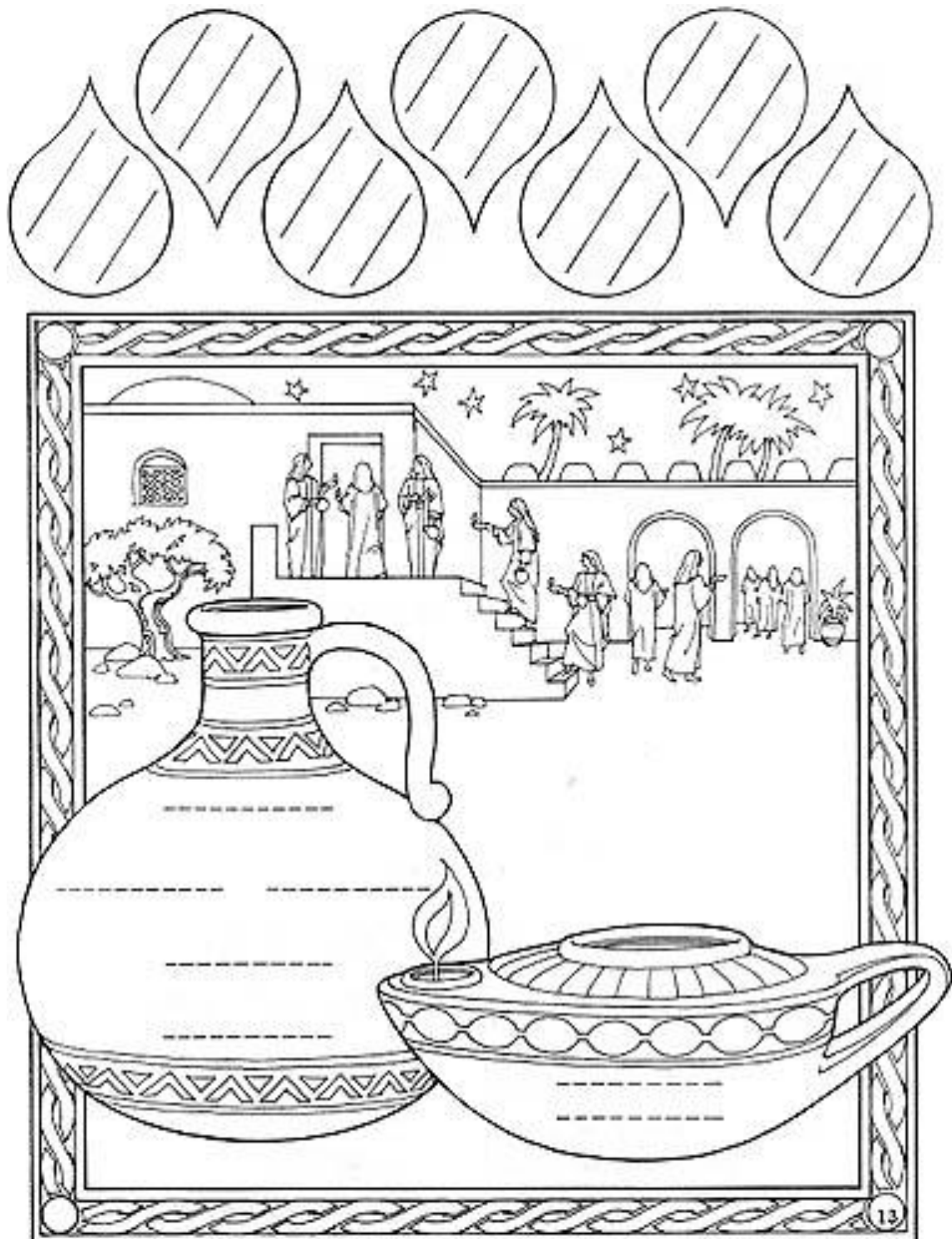
You will need: a template for each child, cardboard, scissors, coloured pencils or markers.

- 1) Talk about the things children can do to keep their lamps burning brightly e.g. spending time talking to God, listening to bible stories.
- 2) Guide children through the craft activity following the instructions on the template.
- 3) Invite children to tell the story of the Ten Bridesmaids to someone at home this week.



Keep Your Lamps Burning

1. Colour the picture and the drops of oil. In the drops of oil, write what you can do to be ready to meet Jesus.
2. Glue this image onto lightweight cardboard, then cut out the picture and the drops of oil.
3. Cut slits on the broken lines, as indicated, and "fill" the lamp and the jar with extra oil by placing the drops of oil in the slits.
4. Share what you have learned with someone in your family.





ALWAYS BE READY!

**JESUS WANTS
US TO BE GOOD
SO THAT WE ARE
ALWAYS READY
TO MEET HIM.**

**IMAGINE YOU ARE
HAVING A FEW FRIENDS
FOR A SLEEP-OVER AT
YOUR HOUSE.**

**HOW WOULD YOU GET
READY FOR YOUR
VISITORS?**
