

NINETEENTH SUNDAY



First Reading † Wisdom 18:6-9

Just as you struck our enemies, you made us glorious by calling us to you.

A reading from the book of Wisdom

That night had been known in advance to our ancestors
so that they might rejoice,
secure in the knowledge of the oaths in which they had put their trust.

Your people thus were waiting both for the rescue of the upright
and for the ruin of the enemy;
for by the very vengeance that you exacted on our adversaries,
you glorified us by calling us to you.

So the holy children of the good offered sacrifice in secret
and with one accord enacted this holy law:
that the holy ones should share good things and dangers alike.
Already they were chanting the hymns of their ancestors.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 32:1.12.18-20.22

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you righteous;
for praise is fitting for the upright.
Blessed the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his heritage.

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
He is our help and our shield.
May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O Lord.

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Second Reading [longer form] † Hebrews 11:1-2.8-19

We will look for the city designed and built by God.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the conviction of realities that are unseen. For this our ancestors were attested.

In faith Abraham obeyed the call to *set out* for a place which he was to receive as an inheritance, and *he set out* without knowing where he was going. By faith he *sojourned* in the Promised Land as a stranger, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise, for he was looking forward to the well-founded city, of which God was the designer and builder.

In faith Sarah also, in spite of being barren and beyond the age of conception, was made able to receive the seed to bear a child, because she believed that he who had made the promise was faithful. Because of this, from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants *as numerous as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore which cannot be counted*.

In faith all these died before receiving the promises, but seeing them from afar, welcoming them and recognising that they were only *strangers and nomads on earth*. People who say such things make it quite plain that they are seeking a homeland. If they had meant the country from which they came, they would have had opportunity to return to it; but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, a heavenly one. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has made ready a city for them.

By faith Abraham, *when put to the test, offered up Isaac*. Although he was waiting to receive the promise he was prepared to sacrifice his only son, of whom he had been told: *through Isaac will your name be carried on*. He reckoned that God had the power even to raise the dead, and from there, figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back.

The word of the Lord.

Second Reading [shorter form] † Hebrews 11:1-2.8-12

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The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † Matthew 24:42.44

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

Gospel [longer form] † Luke 12:32-48

See that you are prepared.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, that is where your heart will be too.

‘See that you have your belts done up and your lamps lit. Be like people waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Amen I say to you, he will do up his belt, sit them down at table and wait on them. He may come in the middle of the night or when it is nearly dawn, but blessed are those servants if he finds them ready.

‘You may be sure of this, that if the householder had known at what time the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

Peter said,

‘Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?’

The Lord replied,

‘Who, then, is the wise and trustworthy steward whom the master will place over his household to give them at the proper time their allowance of food? Blessed is that servant if his master’s arrival finds him doing exactly that. I tell you truly, he will put him in charge of everything that he owns. But if the servant says to himself, “My master is taking his time coming,” and sets about beating the menservants and the servant-girls, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as unbelievers.

‘The servant who knows what the master wants, but has got nothing ready and done nothing in accord with those wishes, will be given a great many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but has acted in a way to deserve a beating, will be given fewer strokes. When someone is given a great deal, a great deal will be demanded of that person; when someone is entrusted with a great deal, of that person even more will be expected.

The Gospel of the Lord.