

## Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – August 10, 2025 – Good Shepherd Parish

### Scripture Reading: Wisdom 18:6-9

The night of the passover was known beforehand to our fathers, that, with sure knowledge of the oaths in which they put their faith, they might have courage. Your people awaited the salvation of the just and the destruction of their foes. For when you punished our adversaries, in this you glorified us whom you had summoned. For in secret the holy children of the good were offering sacrifice and putting into effect with one accord the divine institution.

### Psalm: Ps 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22

R. Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Exult, you just, in the LORD;

praise from the upright is fitting.

Blessed the nation whose God is the LORD,

the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.

See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,

upon those who hope for his kindness,

to deliver them from death

and preserve them in spite of famine.

Our soul waits for the LORD,

who is our help and our shield.

May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us

who have put our hope in you.

### Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

Brothers and sisters: Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. Because of it the ancients were well attested. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he sojourned in the promised land as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs of the same promise; for he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and maker is God. By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age-and Sarah herself was sterile-for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore.

All these died in faith. They did not receive what had been promised but saw it and greeted it from afar and acknowledged themselves to be strangers and aliens on earth, for those who speak thus show that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land from which they had come, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better homeland, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name." He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

### Gospel: Luke 12:32-48

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. "Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

Then Peter said, "Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?" And the Lord replied, "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute the food allowance at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so. Truly, I say to you, the master will put the servant in charge of all his property. But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, to eat and drink and get drunk, then that servant's master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish the servant severely and assign him a place with the unfaithful. That servant who knew his master's will but did not make preparations nor act in accord with his will shall be beaten severely; and the servant who was ignorant of his master's will but acted in a way deserving of a severe beating shall be beaten only lightly. Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more."

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## **INVITATION TO PRAY**

*Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God.*

## **Proclaim the Scriptures out loud.**

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

## **INVITATION TO REFLECT**

Trust. Trust is difficult for us today. Relying on someone else involves a risk, and we have been disappointed so often. Yet human bonding is entirely dependent on trust, wise trust. In the modern world we use substitutes for human bonding and certainly for trust. We overwork, we overeat, we live for parties and pleasure; we invent formulas such as “quality time” in order to fit family and children into our loaded schedules; and in the United States we simply get rid of a husband or wife or vocation that no longer pleases us. Is there any room left for trust? In the Gospel, Jesus says “be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Jesus is prescribing here a two-way relationship with God. The Master has gone away, relying and depending on the loyalty of his servants. They will fulfill their role by continuing to keep order and by being ready to welcome their Lord back at any moment. Not so. They are eating, drinking, dancing, forgetting all about the duties of love. They say, “he is nowhere to be seen, he is probably staying overnight at his family’s house, so we are FREE! Let’s have a ball!” So they are throwing away relationship and trust. Instead of a human and Godly bonding, they are isolating themselves into selfish indulgences, a “freedom” to cut themselves off sharply from their master (and everyone else). Do you and I ever break our trust with God, to whatever degree?

Let us compare ourselves with a surprising example: Abraham in the Second Reading. There God asks a series of risky deeds from Abraham. Travel to a land that you will somehow inherit. Pass through great deserts and villages full of strangers; dwell in temporary shelters all the way; and harshest of all, believe that your wife Sarah will at last conceive and give birth, even though, in your old age, you are both “as good as dead,” as Paul puts it. It gets worse, not better. God orders Abraham to make the bloody sacrifice of his precious son, Isaac, born at last to the couple’s ancient age. Offer to me his death, God said. So much for trust, wouldn’t you say? We cannot not trust an order like this, of all things. Save yourself and your children! Yet God had given a promise. He had said that Abraham was going to have “descendants as numerous as the sands on the seashore” by Sarah. Many people think that in this scene God was simply asking for obedience from Abraham. But in fact he was asking that Abraham remember and rely on the love and the promise that God had shown over all the years. Our reading tells us he “thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy.” Even though God’s command seemed (and surely was) completely impossible and even outrageous, Abraham relied completely on the steady reality of God’s loving kindness. Reader: for better or for worse, this is the way we too are led toward bonding with God. We are to try our best to stay faithful even if the entire world gives in to greed and disregard for others. We are told to be present to those whom Jesus loves; to remember God’s fidelity to us; ...to remember love. To return trust for love. Isn’t it worth the risk?

## **INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING**

1. Are you certain enough of God’s covenant with us that you can carry out a “leap of faith”? What gave the Israelites the courage to begin their journey into the unknown desert land? How do you make smaller leaps, maybe a hop or two, of faith in your everyday life?
2. God promised Abraham that he would have many descendants. What allowed Abraham to offer his only child? Can you relate to this story in any way? How is your trust?
3. “Be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks,” Jesus tells us. Do you remember to “watch” for God in your everyday life? Where would you find him?

## **INVITATION TO ACT**

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

## **CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY**

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another’s openness and sensitivity. Conclude with the following:

Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

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## **Prayer to St. Michael**

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen