

Formed in Prayer

*Let us be still
and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us.*

Dear Father, be with us as we pray.
Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire
and sustain us in our mission.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Gospel

Luke 12:35-40 (Longer form Luke 12: 32-42)

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, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Jesus said to his disciples: ‘See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour 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.’

*What words or phrases struck you in Sunday’s Gospel reading?
What might God be prompting you to consider or inviting you to do in and through the Gospel?*

Reflection

What does it mean for us today to “stand ready”? The Gospel first suggests it is to be without fear. In a morning meditation on 15 May, 2015, Pope Francis explained that “Fear is an attitude that harms us, weakens us, diminishes us, even paralyzes us”. It is such that, “a person in fear does nothing, doesn’t know what to do: is fearful, frightened, focused on him or herself so that something harmful or bad won’t happen”. Thus, “fear leads to selfish egocentrism and it paralyzes us”. Francis urged: “do not have fear” but instead “have joy”. He explained that “not having fear is asking for the grace of courage, the courage of the Holy Spirit; and having joy is asking for the gift of the Holy Spirit, even in the most difficult times, through that peace that the Lord gives us”.

So the Gospel leaves us to contemplate two questions. First, ‘What keeps me up at night? Is it a fear or selfishness that weakens me, diminishes me, even paralyzes me? Second, ‘What gets me up in the morning ‘dressed for action and lamp lit? Is it the joy of a heart set on the Risen Jesus, on service of others, especially those most in need? Francis teaches that God’s love calls us “to move beyond fear gifted with the courage to put on faith, hope and love as we go out into the world and become God’s Word in body as well as spirit.”
(Greg Wilson, CSYMA Manager)

Prayer

Dear Father,
We bring our fears to you, the fears that weaken us, diminish us, even paralyse us. (Pause)
Help us to know the depths of your love for us. Gift us with the peace of Christ.
Help us together to ‘stand ready’, ‘dressed for action and lamps lit.’
We rely on and pray for each other. (Pause)
May your Kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen