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First Reading: Wisdom 18:6-9
Response: “*Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as his own*” (Ps.33:12)
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 32:1,12,18-20,22
Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19
Gospel: Luke 12:32-48

The *Mashiah* is waiting for us, not in a faraway place but right here as the Risen Lord, the *Shekinah*, Presence of God, in our midst. He is ever so close to us but do we care? He awaits our response to him.

The Book of Wisdom compares the wisdom of this world to the wisdom of God. It recalls how Israel watched through the night and were saved while Egypt experienced death. “*You took vengeance on our foes, you have made us glorious by calling us to you*” (Wis.18:8).

In remembering the works of the Lord and watching and praying, God’s people “*chant the hymns of the fathers*” (Wis.18:9) and express how their “*soul is waiting for the Lord*” (Ps.94:7-8).

It is the just and righteous who “*ring out their joy to the Lord*” (Ps.33:1), for trust in a person’s word means trust in the person. This is the gift of faith. “*Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as his own*” (Ps.33:12).

The chosen can watch and pray, waiting in faith and trusting in God. In the letter to Hebrews, we read that “*only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for*” (Heb.11:1) and “*by faith Abraham obeyed the call*” (Heb.11:8) and “*Sarah was able to conceive*” (Heb.11:11).

Such persons waited in faith “*before receiving any of the things that God had promised*” (Heb.11:13). And it was “*by faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up his son, Isaac*” (Heb.11:17) and so figuratively speaking “*He was given back Isaac from the dead*” (Heb.11:19).

Faith means being “*dressed for action, like men waiting for their master*” (Lk.12:36). Faith means watching and waiting for the coming of the Lord.

Jesus exhorts us all to watch and pray. “*You too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect*” (Lk.12:40) and Jesus warns us that “*When a man has had a great deal given on trust, even more will be expected of him*” (Lk.12:48).

Focus on what the **Gospel** says today about watching and waiting for the Lord (Lk.12:32-48).

In the **Eucharist**, we pray for the coming of the Lord and his Kingdom in the Lord’s Prayer.

Study Jesus’ **Teaching** about his second coming and his warning for us to watch and pray.

We **Witness** to our faith in trusting God and his promises and attentively awaiting his coming.

FOR THE CHILDREN

Listen to the words of Jesus in the Gospel today (Lk.12:32-48). Focus on ‘watch’ and ‘pray’.

In our Liturgy we pray the Lord’s Prayer. Discuss the meaning of “Thy Kingdom come.”

Give a Teaching on the meaning and importance of Jesus’ exhortation to watch and pray.

Encourage the children to give Witness in preparing for the coming of the Lord, by being watchful and prayerful.

FOR TEENAGERS (*Shared Christian Praxis*)

Name the Present Action: *What is your impression of watching and waiting for God?*

Your Story and Vision: *How often do you and others you know, watch and pray?*

Church's Story and Vision: *Give teaching on what watching and waiting for the Lord means.*

Yours and Church's Vision: Be more attentive to the Lord and the building of his Kingdom.

RCIA

"Be ready" is the watchword, waiting for the Lord. It means being full of expectation and attentive to the Word of God. "***Our soul is waiting for the Lord***" (Ps.32).

"I want to know the future because I am a man," said the camel-driver⁽ⁱ⁾, not sure of himself.

"I know the future," says the Christian, who is attentive to the promises of God and see them coming true before it happens. This is faith, believing what you pray for, happens. It means being ready for the action of God.

(i) COELHO Paulo. *The Alchemist*. Transl. Alan R. Clarke. Harper Collins Publishers, London, U.K. p.107.

LIFE EXPERIENCE

There is a great noise in the streets, voices cheering, *vuvuzelas* blaring. *Vuvuzela* is a Zulu word for what makes a 'vuvu' sound, similar to that of a foghorn. Beware, the *vuvuzela* can reach 127 decibels. Anything above 85 can cause tinnitus or permanent damage to ears. They say such a sound can kill a baboon and so some believe that blowing the *vuvuzela* will kill off the opposing team at soccer. Such is some of the fanaticism in the World Cup in South Africa. One wonders at the years of intense preparation involved for this great occasion, and the all the money spent on propaganda. We are caught up in this World Cup event but where are we in the great event of our salvation and preparation for the coming of the Lord?

LITTLE ANGELINA

Angelina was to have a personal experience of the World Cup when she accompanied her father to a game in Durban. Her worried mother reminded her to stay close to her father, even suggesting the use of a leash. Angelina objected saying she will not be treated like a dog. Parents are advised to keep an eye on their little ones because of child-trafficking in South Africa. When Angelina was watching the game, who was watching Angelina? Perhaps her picture was surreptitiously taken on a cell-phone, in spite of the watchful eye of her father.

IMPORTANT WORD: "***Watching and Waiting***" (Lk.12:40),

For the Christian, watching and waiting means being alert and ready, even longing for the coming of the Lord. Such a believer has hope for the future, unlike the philosophical pagan who desires delight but sees nothing bright, only sorrow for tomorrow.⁽ⁱ⁾ When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we pray for the coming of the Kingdom and ultimately seeing Christ all in all. The preparation for this moment should dominate our lives, where the Christian lives in anticipation and attentive to the coming of the Lord (*parousia*) which is also the Last Day or Day of the Lord. It will be a manifestation of triumph and of glory of the Risen Lord. This waiting, we celebrate in the Easter Vigil, watching through the night with the prophetic word of God and welcoming the new dawn with the full light of Christ. Every Sunday is also the day of the Lord, *Dominica*, and every Eucharist is a paschal celebration, and the cry of the early Church "*Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus*" is the Christian cry of today, as we watch and pray.

(i) Own translation of "*Τις μοι τις εἶ οὐν τερψις ἐπεσταί*" in context of **SOPHOCLES' Ajax**,1208. Penguin Classics

Watchword: “*You too must stand ready*” (Lk. 12:40)

Hebrew: לְכֵן גַּם־אַתֶּם הֵיוּ נִכּוּנִים

Lakhen gam-'attem heyu nekhonim.

Greek: Καὶ ὑμεῖς γίνεσθε ἐτοιμοί.

Kai humeis ginesthe etoimoi.

Latin: **Et vos estote parati.**

Portuguese: **Estai vos, tambien apercbidos.**

Spanish: **Vosotros, pues, tambien, estad preparados.**

French: **Tenez-vous prêts, vous aussi.**

German: **Seid auch ihr bereit!**

Afrikaans: **Ook julle moet gereed wees.**

Zulu: **Ngakho-ke nani anohlala nizilungisele.**

Xhosa: **Nani ke ngoko hlalani niphaphile.**

Sotho: **Le lona le itokise.**

Irish: **Bigi sibhse ullamh freisin.**