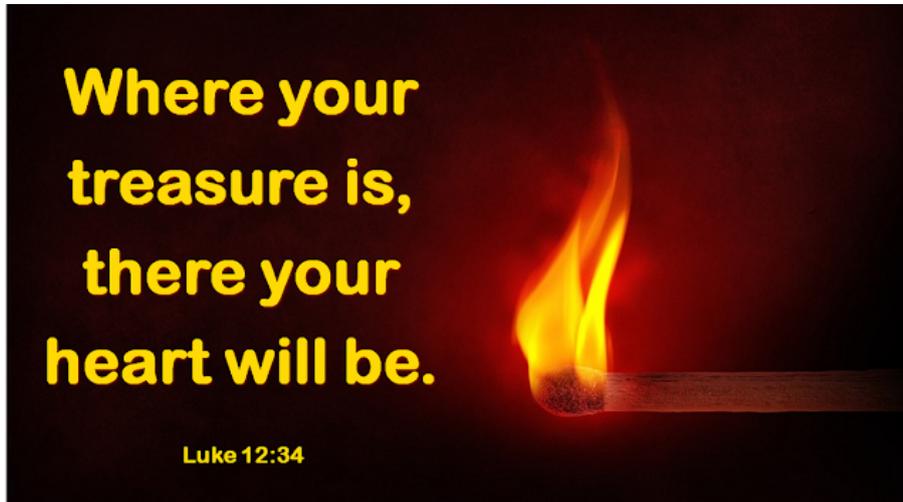


THE 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C



THE GOSPEL Luke 12:32-48 or 35-40

*Be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding,
ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.*

Lord,
you tell us to
be vigilant and watch for your
coming.

Help us
find you in the Eucharist,
help us find you in those we love,
in strangers we meet, in the poor and needy.
Let us find you in our sleep, in our work and in our play,
watch for you in our laughter and in our tears,
in the deep souls of everyone we meet
every day in the dusk and
in the dark of
night.

And give us courage
to stand against
sins that
harm all
that you love.

THE FIRST 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.

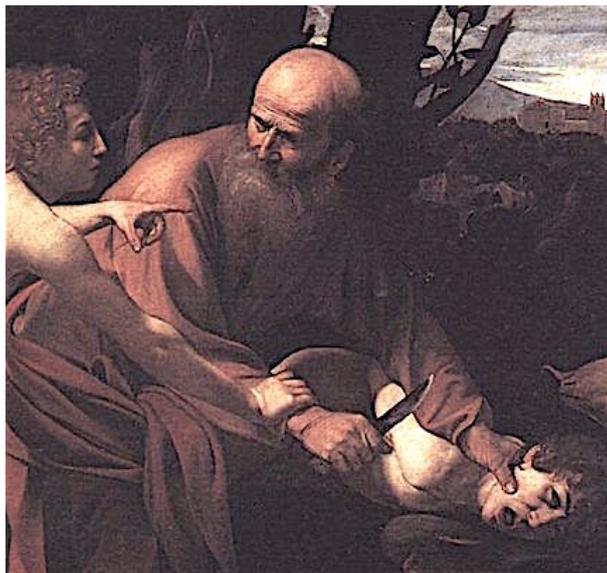
Our
forebears
got small signs
that gave them nerve
to trudge through wastelands,
to face every misery
and every
threat.

O
God,
give us
your signs
small or large.

Let us trust

and know you are with us,
the days that we walk
in the dry deserts
of our lives.

THE SECOND READING Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 or 1-2, 8-12



Abraham about to sacrifice his son, Isaac (Caravaggio)

Abraham remembered your promise:
offspring countless as the stars.
Yet he lifted his sword
to sacrifice his and
Sarah's only
child.

God, you
loved his trust,
and you held back his
blade.

Let us too
listen to your promises.

We
do trust.
We believe.
Help our unbelief.

REFLECTION>

Jesus said, 'For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also'.

Today's readings remind us that God has chosen us all as his own. They also highlight the importance of our humble faith and trust in God, who calls us to 'joyfully take courage' in the world.

The **First Reading** recalls the night of the Passover, when the Jewish slaves put their trust in God and escaped the oppression of Pharaoh.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus teaches that while the Kingdom of God has, in one sense, already arrived, in another it is still to come: it is both a gift and a challenge to us. It is therefore vital that we are awake to meet the Master whenever he returns, committing our hearts to the unfailing treasures of his kingdom.

The **Second Reading** meditates on the history of Israel, inviting us to imitate people like Abraham and Sarah as models of faith. Faith is the virtue that enables us to keep watching and waiting for the Lord's presence in the ups and downs of our daily lives.

The **Psalmist** celebrates all peoples: women and men who are chosen by the Lord, and in turn, place their trust and hope in him.

Perhaps this week we might take our prayer from today's theme:

*Father, please deepen our trust in you,
so we may live joyfully and with courage.*

We also continue to pray for peace across the world.

