KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE

Wisdom 6:12–16 • Psalm 63 • 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 • Matthew 25:1–13



In today's Gospel, ten bridesmaids wait for the bridegroom. All have lamps, all are invited, and all eventually fall asleep. But only five have enough oil when the moment comes. The difference is not enthusiasm or good intentions, but what they have done to sustain their light.

It is a gentle but challenging reminder that having faith and nourishing faith are not quite the same thing. We can know our prayers, attend Mass, and keep religious traditions, yet neglect the quiet relationship with God that gives them life.

The oil in our lamps is replenished in ordinary ways: through prayer, forgiveness, compassion, and the daily decision to love when loving is difficult. These things cannot be borrowed at the last minute or lived entirely through someone else's faith.

And perhaps that is the deeper invitation of this Gospel: not to live anxiously waiting for Christ, but to live attentively, recognizing His presence already among us. The question is not simply whether our lamps are lit today, but what we are doing to keep them burning tomorrow.