

Matthew 25:1-13

The Common English Bible

¹“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. ²Now five of them were wise, and the other five were foolish. ³The foolish ones took their lamps but didn’t bring oil for them. ⁴But the wise ones took their lamps and also brought containers of oil. ⁵“When the groom was late in coming, they all became drowsy and went to sleep. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Look, the groom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷“Then all those bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. ⁸But the foolish bridesmaids said to the wise ones, ‘Give us some of your oil, because our lamps have gone out.’ ⁹“But the wise bridesmaids replied, ‘No, because if we share with you, there won’t be enough for our lamps and yours. We have a better idea. You go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰But while they were gone to buy oil, the groom came. Those who were ready went with him into the wedding. Then the door was shut. ¹¹“Later the other bridesmaids came and said, ‘Lord, lord, open the door for us.’ ¹²“But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’ ¹³“Therefore, keep alert, because you don’t know the day or the hour.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 78:1-7

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¹Listen, my people, to my teaching; tilt your ears toward the words of my mouth. ²I will open my mouth with a proverb. I’ll declare riddles from days long gone - ³ones that we’ve heard and learned about, ones that our ancestors told us.

⁴We won’t hide them from their descendants; we’ll tell the next generation all about the praise due the LORD and his strength - the wondrous works God has done.

⁵He established a law for Jacob and set up Instruction for Israel, ordering our ancestors to teach them to their children.

⁶This is so that the next generation and children not yet born will know these things, and so they can rise up and tell their children ⁷to put their hope in God - never forgetting God’s deeds, but keeping God’s commandments...

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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¹³Brothers and sisters, we want you to know about people who have died so that you won't mourn like others who don't have any hope. ¹⁴Since we believe that Jesus died and rose, so we also believe that God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus. ¹⁵What we are saying is a message from the Lord: we who are alive and still around at the Lord's coming definitely won't go ahead of those who have died. ¹⁶This is because the Lord himself will come down from heaven with the signal of a shout by the head angel and a blast on God's trumpet. First, those who are dead in Christ will rise. ¹⁷Then, we who are living and still around will be taken up together with them in the clouds to meet with the Lord in the air. That way we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸So encourage each other with these words.