Cycle A – Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Nov. 15, 2026

"Well done good and faithful servant"

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 128)

Leader: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

All: **Happy is the one who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways. You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands**;

Leader: You shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.

All: **Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;**
your children will be olive shoots around your table.

Leader: Thus shall you be blessed who fear the Lord.
The Lord bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

All: **Amen.**

First Reading –Proverbs 31, 10-13, 16-18, 20, 26, 28-31++

Israel's wisdom is summarized and symbolized by this portrait of the ideal wife, or rather a shrewd or wise woman. The passage suggests a woman who uses her gifts and talents freely, even if her opportunities are culturally limited. She performs crafts skillfully. She purchases a field, works it, and profits from it. She is making a life, a life in relationship to her family and those beyond her family in need. What gives it all its final meaning is the fact that she is a "woman who fears the Lord". Fearing God does not mean being terrified of God but living in profound respect for the mystery from which we spring, knowing that we belong to God and the purpose of our existence is to love Him.

1. How much "fear of the Lord" is there in your life?
2. Some couples choose this reading for their wedding ceremony. Would you?

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

St. Paul praises the Thessalonians as "children of the light and children of the day". They understand the importance of vigilance, not as a paralyzing fear or anxiety about the future. It is to be alert and wakeful in every moment by living in a Christian manner. Then if sudden change comes, our faith helps us to adapt and even to grow spiritually.

1. When you hear the word *change*, how does it make you feel?
2. How do we recognize the hand of God in any changes that are on-going in our personal life; in our parish or country?

Gospel – Matthew: 25:14-30

This gospel blends well not only with the texture of faith and good work in the larger section of Matthew's gospel but also with one of Matthew's minor themes, the paralyzing effect of cowardice. Rather than being "next world" preoccupied, our faith should help us fulfill our earthly responsibilities and make the world a better reflection of the kingdom of God. We, perhaps, think of the master as being unjust in his distribution but even the one talent was an enormous wealth and talents were distributed according to each one's ability. The intention was to draw upon the abilities of each and for them to make the best use of the talents.

1. God has gifted each of us in so many ways. Name a gift that you have received and how you feel called to use it to serve your family or others?
2. Name some accomplishment that has helped to define your life. What does it say to you, to others, about who you are?
3. What talent that you have been given, have you buried or left undeveloped? Is there some long put-off or half-finished task around the home that needs your attention this week?

LIVING THE WORD

Put together a plan for how you might further develop and use a gift God has given you – perhaps one that you may be hiding out of fear, or for selfish reasons.

PRAYING THE WORD

Intercession: For all Christians, called to use our talents to reveal God's crazy love for us that we may give freely of this love which Christ promises us is limitless.

Invite other intentions, end with "Our Father …"

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: Jesus, where your light is small in the darkness,
send the Spirit's breath through us to inflame it.

All: **Where your light is smoldering beneath our weakness and need to control, let us be open and awaiting your transforming fire.**

Leader: Where your light is burning brightly, fed by the fuel of our faith and our hope, let us be consumed by zeal for you.

All: **Illumine our minds and hearts that we might recognize your goodness in ourselves, and that we might not overlook goodness in others.**

Leader: We ask all these things in your name who lives and reigns with the Creator and the Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Let us share with one another the sign of Christ's Peace.