

Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

Forget not the cries of those who seek you. *Entrance Antiphon*

My soul is waiting for the Lord.
He is **my** help and **my** shield. *Psalm*

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. *Second Reading*

Let us pray that through us,
others may find the way to life in Christ.

Father, touch our hearts,
help them grow towards the life you have promised.
Touch our lives, make them signs of your love for all people.
Old Opening Prayer

This week's readings if you want to reflect further:
Wisdom 18: 6–9; Ps. 32 (33); Hebrews 11: 1–2.8–19; Luke 12: 32–48

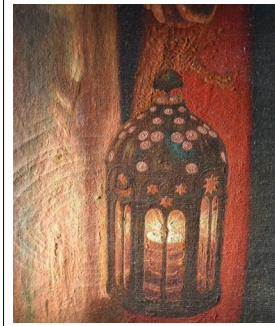


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'Open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.'

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



PREGO LEAFLET

Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Year C, 10th August 2025

'You also must be ready ...'

Today's readings remind us that since God has chosen us as his own, we must always be ready to answer his call – whenever and wherever it comes.

The **First Reading** reminds us of the night of the Passover, when the Jewish people were called to place their trust in the God who would deliver them from captivity in Egypt.

The **Psalm** celebrates all those who, like us, have been chosen by God to receive the blessings that will protect and save us.

In the **Second Reading** we read that faith – *the assurance of things hoped for* – is what enables us all to believe in the promises of God. Faith sustains us in watching and waiting for the Lord's presence.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus speaks to us of the importance of staying awake. We must be ready to receive his call to serve others in the way that he himself showed us throughout his life.

As **Pilgrims of Hope** in this Jubilee Year, we pray that we will be more attentive, and respond more generously to the needs of those who are unable to share in the blessings that God has bestowed on our world.



Opening Prayer

Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit
we dare to call our Father,
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts
the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters,
that we may merit to enter into the inheritance
which you have promised.

Psalm 32 (33)

R/. Blessed the people the LORD has chosen as his heritage.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting from the upright.
Blessed the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his heritage.

Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their soul from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
He is our help and our shield.
May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O Lord.

As I prepare for my time of prayer, I begin by acknowledging everything going on around me at the moment. If there's something I'm particularly struggling with, I might envisage laying it down at the feet of the Lord, and asking for the gift of his healing and peace. Then I let my body and mind become still in whatever way works best for me today.

When I feel ready, I read through the psalm a couple of times – perhaps aloud if I can – to experience the flow of the words more deeply.

Maybe I notice how the psalmist describes those who are 'chosen': *just, upright, fearing the Lord, hopeful*.

In what ways do I feel these words apply to me?

How might I describe the 'heritage' I have received from the Lord?
Perhaps I'm drawn to think of all those who have helped me over the years to recognise and experience my inheritance.

Re-reading the psalm, I ponder the ways in which I experience the blessings of the Lord: perhaps through my family, my friends, my community ... or in some other way.

As I offer thanks for my own blessings, I also pray for those yet to find their way to the Lord, or for the many people living in the shadow of death through famine, war or poverty.

As I bring my prayer to a close, I may like to take the final stanza and make it my own: '**My** soul is waiting for the Lord. He is **my** help and **my** shield ...'

Gospel Luke 12: 35–40 (shorter option)

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like those servants who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service, and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If the master comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

I settle myself in the place I have chosen to pray. Taking a couple of deeper breaths, I feel myself drawn into the soothing peace of the Lord's presence. I let go of the busyness and distractions of the day.

When ready, I turn to the text. If it helps, I may like to imagine myself among those who surround Jesus as he speaks. I notice how the disciples and the crowd of onlookers respond to what Jesus is saying.

What is my own response? What do I understand?

Perhaps Jesus's words prompt me to ask myself how awake I really am to what is going on around me. Am I truly ready to 'open the door' to his call? Or have I filled my life with too many other distractions that get in the way of my being able to serve?

As I hear Jesus speak of the Master as a servant, I might reflect on my own willingness to serve.

Am I living in a way that reflects the faith I have received from him, or do I perhaps place my own limits on what I will do?

Conversely, have I overburdened myself, offering to take on more than I can really manage, and then become resentful and frustrated at my limitations?

Leaving the gathering behind, I now invite Jesus to walk beside me and take an honest, yet gentle and compassionate look at my life.

I listen to whatever he wants to tell me.

In time, I thank him for being by my side, and offer my own prayer of praise and thanksgiving.