

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

READY AND WAITING

Luke 12:35-37 “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men 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 he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!

The life of those, members of the Kingdom of God still living here on earth is one of patient, diligent waiting for Jesus to return. His angels said at His Ascension, “This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11) Jesus told the parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins to encourage all who believe in Him that He will return from heaven, but at a time known only to Him. Therefore, Jesus said His wise followers will be ever alert, diligent, always waiting and ready for His return. (Matthew 25:1-13)

Jesus taught, “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. . . Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (Matthew 24:36, 44) It is your faith and trust in Jesus that keeps you awake, alert, diligently expecting His return. Jesus has given you the gift of His Word and the Sacraments to equip and strengthen you in your patient waiting for Him to come to take you to be with Him. The Holy Spirit blesses these gifts to strengthen your faithful readiness for the Lord’s return and patient waiting.

Jesus exhorts you, “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. . .” (Revelation 2:10) “The one who endures to the end will be saved.” (Matthew 10:22) Come Lord Jesus come!

Prayer: Holy Spirit, through the Means of Grace strengthen my heart, soul, mind and spirit during this time that I endure in the true faith until Christ’s return. In His name. Amen.

The Bridegroom soon will call us, "Come to the wedding feast."
May slumber not befall us Nor watchfulness decrease.
May all our lamps be burning With oil enough and more
That we, with Him returning, May find an open door!

There shall we see in glory Our dear Redeemer's face;
The long awaited story Of heav'nly joy takes place:
The patriarchs shall meet us, The prophets' holy band;
Apostles, martyrs greet us In that celestial land.

There God shall from all evil Forever make us free,
From sin and from the devil, From all adversity,
From sickness, pain, and sadness, From troubles, cares, and fears,
And grant us heav'nly gladness And wipe away our tears.

In that fair home shall never Be silent music's voice;
With hearts and lips forever We shall in God rejoice,
While angel hosts are raising With saints from great to least
A mighty hymn for praising The Giver of the feast.
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