1 Thessalonians 4: 13 – 18

In common with most, if not all of the early Christians, Paul expected the second coming of Christ to happen soon. Here he consoles the Thessalonians who are worried about the fate of their loved ones before the return of the Lord. He tells them they are with the risen Jesus and that the living and the dead will be reunited in the final revelation of the kingdom. The Thessalonians are facing what we all experience, the loss of a loved one. Grief is never straightforward. Paul's message to them and to us is clear. He does not tell them – and us – not to grieve. That is alright and normal in such circumstances. What he states unequivocally is: 'Do not grieve like those who have no hope.' Our confidence rests in Jesus who has conquered death on the Cross and is alive through the Resurrection. There lies our true hope now and for the future. Following Paul's advice to the Thessalonians: 'We are to comfort one another with these thoughts.'

From Cyprian of Carthage

'Let us remember one another in concord and unanimity. Let us on both sides [of death] always pray for one another. Let us relieve burdens and afflictions by mutual love, that if one of us, by the swiftness of divine condescension, shall go hence first, our love may continue in the presence of the Lord, and our prayers for our brethren and sisters not cease in the presence of the Father's mercy.'

Eternal Rest Prayer

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

The Society
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Sunday 8th Nov. 2026
3rd bef. Advent / 32nd Ord.
Gospel: Matt. 25: 1 – 13



In Jewish weddings in New Testament times, the groom took the bride from her father's house to his own, but only when family negotiations were finished. This explains the delay in this case and why the guests were left waiting in today's Gospel. The foolish bridesmaids went off to find oil, hoping to find a late-night merchant perhaps, so they were too late to welcome the couple. The message here is to be ready because there are always things to do that could never have been predicted. Today's Gospel also reminds us not everything is instantaneous; it underlines the importance of waiting. We need to focus on the here and now because it is important to live in the present. That is where we will find God. Whether the groom arrives early or late does not matter if He is always part of our everyday life in prayer and sacrament.

Remembrance Sunday

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them.