

## **Scripture Lesson for Nov. 8, 2020 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

### **Introduction: The Gospel Lesson Matthew 25:1-13**

Chapter 25 of Matthew's gospel includes several rich lessons for the last weeks of year A of the Revised Common Lectionary. For this Sunday, the chapter begins with the parable of the ten bridesmaids. The Message calls the ten women, "Virgins," that the parable of the ten virgins. The following two lessons contain the parable of the talents and the classic story of the "judgement of the nations" with the separation of goats and the sheep. Listen now to the parable of the ten bridesmaids: Listen to how this unfolds:

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 25:1-13

### **The Story of the Virgins**

**25** <sup>1-5</sup> "God's kingdom is like ten young virgins who took oil lamps and went out to greet the bridegroom. Five were silly and five were smart. The silly virgins took lamps, but no extra oil. The smart virgins took jars of oil to feed their lamps. The bridegroom didn't show up when they expected him, and they all fell asleep.

<sup>6</sup> "In the middle of the night someone yelled out, 'He's here! The bridegroom's here! Go out and greet him!'

<sup>7-8</sup> "The ten virgins got up and got their lamps ready. The silly virgins said to the smart ones, 'Our lamps are going out; lend us some of your oil.'

<sup>9</sup> "They answered, 'There might not be enough to go around; go buy your own.'

<sup>10</sup> "They did, but while they were out buying oil, the bridegroom arrived. When everyone who was there to greet him had gone into the wedding feast, the door was locked.

<sup>11</sup> "Much later, the other virgins, the silly ones, showed up and knocked on the door, saying, 'Master, we're here. Let us in.'

<sup>12</sup> "He answered, 'Do I know you? I don't think I know you.'

<sup>13</sup> "So stay alert. You have no idea when he might arrive.