

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

**“The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who
took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.**

Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

**The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with
them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.**

**Since the bridegroom was long delayed,
they all became drowsy and fell asleep.**

**At midnight, there was a cry, ‘Behold, the bridegroom!
Come out to meet him!’**

Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.

**The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us
some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’**

**But the wise ones replied, ‘No, for there may not be enough
for us and you.**

Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.’

**While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those
who were ready went into the wedding feast with him.**

**Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came
and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’**

But he said in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’

**Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the
hour.**

The Gospel of the Lord