

November 12, 2023



SEEKING HOLY WISDOM

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Excerpts from Today's First Reading & Responsorial Psalm, and the Gospel of Matthew

First Reading

Resplendent and unfading is Wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her and found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known in anticipation of their desire; whoever watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed, for he shall find her sitting by his gate.... For she makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her, and graciously appears to them in the ways, and meets them with all solicitude.

WISDOM 6:12-14, 16

Psalm

God, you are my God, I pine for you: my heart thirsts for you, my body longs for you, as a land parched, dreary and waterless. My heart clings to you, your right hand supports me.

Gospel

Stay awake and be ready!

For you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

MATTHEW 24:42

Reflection

In the first reading, this brief passage from the biblical book of Wisdom describes some of the deeds of Sophia or Holy Wisdom, as a female image of the Spirit of God. For all who seek Wisdom, she is available, even waiting in anticipation of their desire to find her. Spirit-Sophia graces people of every language, culture and nation, making them friends of God (Wis. 7:27) and weaving their interconnectedness with each other and the entire world in tangible ways. She brings the presence of God to us in every circumstance, meeting us with great concern and attentiveness to our needs and desires.

The second excerpt is from Psalm 63, a soulful expression of profound longing for God. The believer pours out a deep desire for the reviving presence of God, indicating a personal, loving relationship with Holy One that is intimate and felt physically in the body: I thirst for you ... I pine for you ... my heart clings to you. The psalmist is seeking what Holy Wisdom is yearning to give to the person in prayer.

So, let us stay awake and be ready for the encounter with the Divine that can happen at any moment. Let us be surprised by the movement of the Holy Spirit within us, enlightening our inner being with the gift and grace of insight and wisdom.



Bearded man holding a book
Photo by Cottonbro Studio

For Prayer

*Holy One,
grant me the wisdom
to bring harmony to the alliance
of my body and my soul.
Let them rise together in my devotion to You.
My soul perceives Your light—
let my body discern it too.
My soul sounds Your praise—
let my body sing it too.*

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