Lessons for the 24th Sunday of Pentecost 2026

Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.

Canticle 10 The Second Song of Isaiah *Is. 55:6-11*

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;
call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the evil ones their thoughts;
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion,
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens
and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth,
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;
it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,
and prosper in that for which I sent it.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

My friends, we want you to understand how it will be for those followers who have already died. Then you will not grieve over them like people who do not have any hope.
We believe Jesus died and was raised to life.
We also believe that when God brings Jesus back again, He will bring with Him all who had faith in Jesus before they died.
Our Lord Jesus told us that when he comes, we will not go up to meet Him (ahead of his followers who have already died). Rather, with a loud command and with the shout of the chief angel and a blast of God's trumpet, the Lord will return from heaven.
Then those who had faith in Christ before they died will be raised to life.
Next, all of us who are still alive will be taken up into the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the sky.
From that time on we will all be with the Lord forever.
Encourage each other with these words.

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus said, “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this:
Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.
Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;
but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.
As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.
But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.
The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’
But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’
And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”