



Sermon
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"Always Ready"

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost (Veteran's Day)
 St. Michael's Lutheran Church – Richville, MI
 11-8-2020

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ! Amen.

Matthew 25:13, "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." (NIV). This is the word of God. (Cross-reference – Matthew 24:42-43; 25:12)

Illustration: "The United States Military Logo, Moto and Catch Phrases"

(Show USCG Logo)



The United States Coast Guard Motto in Latin is called **Semper Paratus**, which means "Always Ready."

(Show USMC Logo)



The Marine Motto said **Semper Fidelis** means "Always Faithful."

(Show Army Logo) Army has No Motto but catchphrases



"I Want YOU for US Army" WWI
 "Today's Army Wants to Join You" 1971-1980
 "Be All You Can Be" 1980-2001
 "Army of One" 2001-2006
 "Army Strong" 2006 - Present

(Show Navy Logo) Navy has No Motto but catchphrases



"Be Someone Special" 1973-1975
 "Navy. It's Not Just A Job; It's An Adventure" 1976
 "Live The Adventure" 1986-1988
 "You Are Tomorrow; You Are The Navy" 1988-1990
 "You and the Navy Full Speed Ahead" 1990
 "Let The Journey Begin" 1996

(Show US Air Force Logo) Air Force has No Motto but catchphrases



Aim High
Fly – Fight – Win
"Above All"
"No One Come Close"

(Show Civil Air Patrol Logo)



The Civil Air Patrol motto said **Semper Vigilans** it means **"Always Vigilant."**

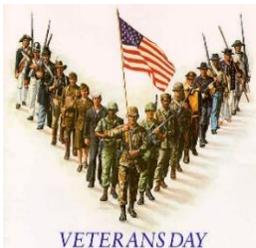
(Show boys and girls club Logo)



The Boys and Girls Club motto are **"Be Prepared."**

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

- I. This coming Wednesday will be Veteran's Day. For the Veterans who served us and for the families who stood by them...Thanks be to God. It is not a church festival, but it is a recognition day celebrated and remembrance on Sunday. We honor all branches of military servicemen and women who have served their country. (Show Veterans)

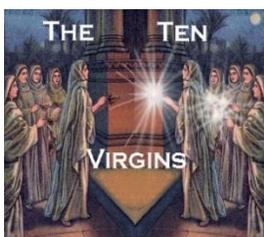


Veteran's Day is a national holiday to honor all branches of military servicemen and women who have answered the call to serve. Originally, November 11 was called Armistice Day and set aside to mark the end of the Great War, the First World War, the war that was to end all war. In 1918, "It was the eleventh day of the eleventh month, and at the eleventh minute of the eleventh hour, there was silence, as if the earth had stopped on its axis. Then all the bells in all the churches rang out. Finally, the world was at peace."

But it wasn't the war to end all wars, as we know. November 11 was Armistice Day until 1954 when, by Act of Congress, the name was changed to Veterans Day. That October, President Dwight Eisenhower, the general who led the Allies to victory in Europe, called on all citizens to "observe the day by remembering the sacrifices of all those who fought so gallantly, and through rededication to the task of promoting lasting peace."

But wars came back to haunt us, and war haunts us still. We ask men and women to serve our country, and it doesn't matter whether in time of war or in time of peace. It makes no difference when a man or a woman serves because the dangers to life are ever-present. That is why we honor veterans and reminds us that those who do must trust that their lives will not be spent needlessly but always ready.

(Show the Ten Virgins)



That brought us to our theme today of ***"Always Ready."*** Jesus once told a story about ten bridesmaids who took their oil lamps and met the bridegroom. Jesus said that five of them were foolish because they had their lamps, but they didn't bring any extra oil to their lamps. When it was time to go out and meet the

bridegroom, they were out of oil. The other five were very wise and well prepared and always ready. They had brought plenty of oil for their lamps. When it was time to go out and meet the bridegroom, they were ready.

- II. Jesus isn't teaching this parable to the unbelievers. He is teaching his disciples, and today He is teaching to you and I. **(Show virgins with lamp)**



All ten of the virgins began the evening with oil in their lamps. That means that all ten of the virgins were Christians; they all had faith. But during their lives, faith was lost because of careless watchfulness. They were prepared at one time, but they were not always ready. In the story, Jesus is teaching us that one day we are going to go and meet Jesus. It teaches us that we must always be ready because we don't know when that time is coming. The groom in the parable is Jesus. At the end of the age, He will return to earth to take His bride, the church,

back to heaven, and enjoy God's eternal wedding celebration. Are you ready for His return? Are you prepared? Are you always faithful? Do you have enough oil in your lamp before Jesus comeback?

(Show the five virgins get to enter the wedding banquet)



The ten ladies were waiting for the groom to show in the parable, but it got very late. It became dark, and they all fell asleep. While they were sleeping, the groom showed! *"At midnight, the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'* (Matthew 25:6)! The five foolish ladies realized that the oil in their lamps had run out. They begged the wise ladies to share with them, but they could not. The foolish ladies left to try and find some more oil, but while they were gone, the groom came and took all those who were prepared into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. *"Later the others also came. 'Lord! Lord!' they*

said. 'Open the door for us!' "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' (Matthew 25:11-12).

(Show are you ready?)



When Jesus shows on the Last Day, you don't want to be caught without any oil in your lamp. That is to say when Jesus shows on the Last Day, you don't want to be found without faith in Jesus Christ. When a person has no faith, he's not ready. Similarly, as the ladies who's did not bring oil for their lamp. If you are not ready and when Jesus returns on the Last Day to take His believers to heaven, you will cry out *'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' But when Jesus will answer 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'* (Matthew 25:11-12)

- III. In the Ten Virgins story, didn't all ten of the virgins have oil in their lamps? Didn't they all know that the groom was coming? **(Show faith?)**



Weren't they all waiting for him? In other words, didn't they all have faith? Yes! At one time, they did all have faith. I'm sure most of you know peoples that are like the five virgins that were not ready. Careless watchfulness. Many people in this life are going to be surprised on the Last Day. They were, at some time, nominal Christians. Maybe they were at some time have firm faith. But they let their guard down. Every Sunday, worship became once a month. Then it dwindled

to once every other month, every six months, then they came only on Christmas and Easter, and soon they stop coming.

How are we to be always ready like the five wise virgins of preparing oil with their lamp? Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, you can still be ready by believing and trusting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. (Show ANGEL)

A	Active in Service
N	Nurturing Our Faith
G	Giving Glory to God
E	Encouraging One Another
L	Leading Others to Jesus

You are always ready when you are Active in services by using your time, talent, and treasurer. You are always ready when you are Nurturing your faith – It is to attend Bible class and learn from others. You are always ready when you are Giving glory to God – It is coming to worship regularly. You are always ready when you are Encouraging one another – It is to fellowship with others. You are always ready when you are Leading others to Jesus – It is telling others about Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

You may not serve in the military, but you are serving as God's army of Christian soldiers, not just for a day, but forever and ever. As I was thinking about Veteran's Day, the armed forces are always ready to defend and protect this nation. Let us watch a video of Thanking our Veteran's. (Show video #VeteransDay: Thank You for Everything - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cgK-BIrXes>)



11-8-2020

VeteransDay Thank

Brothers and sisters, Jesus' life and ministry was conducted mainly by a motto too: "*Semper Paratus* – **Always Ready**" "*Semper Fidelis* – **Always Faithful.**" (Show always ready)

Always Ready

Doesn't that describe Jesus' entire life? He was always ready and faithful. The Bible says, even to the point of death, death on a cross. He was always ready and faithful in following His Father's will. He was always ready and

faithful in obeying God's law—He was born of a woman, born under the law—and yet the Bible still says he was without sin. As our faith and trusting in Jesus as Lord and Savior and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we are always ready to serve Christ until He comes back and takes us home to be with him forever and ever. Amen.

Now may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Children Message

"Be Ready"



Theme: Always Ready

Object Lesson: (Backpack, pencil, paper, and books, money, checkbook, or credit card, and 24-hour packs)

Matthew 25:13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." (NIV). This is the word of God."

Good morning children, what do we need to be ready when we go to school? (*Let them answer*) (backpack, pencil, paper, and books, etc.) Yes! We'd need all those things!

How about going to the grocery store? Can you think of something we need to remember to bring there? (*Let them answer*) That's right - we need money, a checkbook, or a credit card that has money in the bank to pay for those items that we need. When I prepare myself for search and rescue other people with the Civil Air Patrol, I have a 24 hours pack. I need a uniform, vest, water, snack, medical kits, and many other items to help people.

Our lives involve a lot of planning, don't they? We have to *be ready* to do certain things – like you have to have your book, pen, or pencil before you go to school, and if you *aren't ready*, then some things don't work out well at all.

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a story about being ready. Some women had an essential job in helping to get ready for a wedding. They were supposed to hold up lamps at night to help light a path for the groom - but only some of them were ready. This was before electricity or batteries - so these lamps were like candles. They needed oil inside to help keep their fire burning. *Five women* had everything they needed (lamp and extra oil) – *Five of them didn't*. They had brought their lamps but forgot to bring more oil.

Jesus tells this story to remind us that we always need to **"be ready."** We never know when we'll be asked to do important work for God. When the times come, we are ready to help. Not only be ready to help but always ready to keep on believing and trusting Jesus Christ. Are you ready? Yes! Let's pray.

Pray:

Gracious God, we are ready to be your faithful servants on earth. Help and guide us that we are always ready to stand firm and keep on believing in You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.