



Sermon
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“Always Ready”

Veteran’s Day – Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
 St. Paul Lutheran Church – Caro, MI
 11-9-14

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.” This is the word of God. (Cross Reference – Matthew 24:42-43; 25:12)

Illustration: “United States Military Logo”

(Show USCG Logo)



The United States Coast Guard Motto in Latin is called **Semper Paratus** and it mean “Always Ready”

(Show USMC Logo)



The Marine Motto said **Semper Fidelis** it mean “Always Faithful”

(Show Army Logo) Army has No Motto but catch phrases



"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 catch phrases



“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 catch phrases



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

(Show Civil Air Patrol Logo)



The Civil Air Patrol motto said **Semper Vigilans** it mean “Always Vigilant”

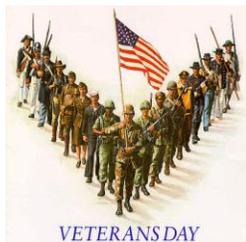
(Show boys and girls club Logo)



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

The Boys and Girls Club motto is “Be Prepared”

- I. This coming Tuesday 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 feast of the church. It’s not one of the holidays that can be transferred to a Sunday, but we to honor those who have served their country. (Show Veterans)



Veterans Day is a national holiday to honor those who have answered the call to serve. Originally, November 11th was called Armistice Day, and was 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 a lasting peace.”

But wars came back to haunt us, and war haunts us still. And so 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 honors veterans and reminds us that those who serve must trust that their lives will not be spent needlessly but always ready. (Show the Ten Virgin)



That brought us to our theme today of *“Always Ready.”* Jesus once told a story about ten bridesmaids who took their oil lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Jesus said that five of them were foolish because they had their lamps, but they didn't bring any extra oil to put in 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 the course of 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 exactly 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)



In the parable the ten ladies were waiting for the groom to show 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

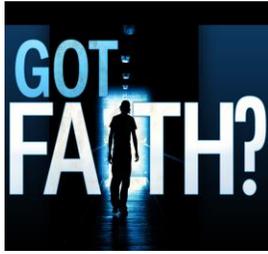
the door was shut. *“Later the others also came. ‘Lord! Lord!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’ ‘But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you’* (Matthew 25:11-12).

(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 it mean that he's not ready and in a similar way like the ladies who's did not bring oil for their lamp. And if you are not ready and when Jesus returns on the last day to take His believers to heaven, everyone will cried 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 story of the ten Virgins, 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 virgin that was not prepare. Careless watchfulness. There are many people in this life who are going to be surprised on the last day. They were at some time nominal Christians. Maybe they were at some time have a very strong faith. But they let their guard down. Every Sunday worship became once a month. Then it dwindled to once every other month, every six month then they came

only on Christmas and Easter and soon you they just stop coming. (Show ANGEL)

How are we to be always ready like the five wise virgin of preparing oil with their lamp? Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, you can always ready by believing and trusting

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

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

Jesus Christ. 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 President Ronald Reagan remember Veteran's Day.

(Show Video from President Ronal Reagan Remember Veterans Day - 3.29 min)



Veterans Day - President Reagan - Remember Veterans Day 3.29.wmv

Brothers and sisters, Jesus' life and ministry was largely conducted 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 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 until He come back and take 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”

Object Lesson: (Bathing suits, towels, sunscreen, etc., Money)

Matthew 25:13 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.” This is the word of God.”

Have you ever gone swimming? We wouldn't want to show up at the pool looking like our church clothes, would we? What are some things we need to bring to the pool so we'll be ready to have fun there? (*Let them answer*) Yes! we'd need all those things!

How about going to the grocery store? Can think of something we need to remember to bring there? (*Let them answer*) That's right - we need money or credit card that has money in the bank to pay for those items that we need.

Our lives involve a lot of planning ahead, 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 just don't work out well at all.

In today's gospel reading Jesus tells a story about being ready. Some women had an important 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 of 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 be 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. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.