

"THANKS BE TO GOD, ALL MADE READY" - NOVEMBER 8, 2020
THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WISDOM OF SOLOMON 6:12-16; I THESS. 4:13-18; MATT. 25:1-13
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

Much of what we experience, we try to get ready for. Surprises come our way, yet, we try to at least get ready for the expected, such as school assignments, appointments, work schedules, important calendar events. Jesus reminds us we are to be ready for him. As Christians, we know The Bridegroom is coming. Jesus comes to us through his signs of love, and through his faithful presence. Jesus tells us we do not know when or where he will come, only that he will. His presence may surprise us; the fact that he is present should never catch us off guard. As we hear in his parable today, Jesus invites us to be ready to see and to answer to and to call upon every sign of love, signs of light, wisdom, goodness and grace. Are we ready? In the spirit of Thanksgiving, the good news is Jesus is ready, he is ready for our sake. Thanks be to God, Jesus gets us ready, ready for every sign of love!

1. Be ready for every sign of love, for God's goodness and grace to bless you with "defining moments!" Matthew 25:1,10
 - A. God is with us, blessing us, in the events and experiences that impact and shape our lives. You will not want to miss them.
 - B. Be ready to have your life defined by Christ! Thanks be to God!

2. Be ready for every sign of love, for God's goodness and grace to call you into action! Matthew 25:8
 - A. There are times to watch, to learn, to let others do, and there are times to be ready to act.
 - B. What are you ready to do? Do you trust God is ready to help? Thanks be to God, God is counting on you!

3. Be ready for every sign of love, for God's wisdom and goodness and grace to break forth, to lead you, to speak to you, and to listen to you!
The Wisdom Of Solomon 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:18
 - A. When you are ready to pray, God is ready to listen.

- B. When you are ready for wisdom and direction, God is ready to lead you.
 - C. When you are not sure if you're ready to pray, how to ask, or where to start, thanks be to God, God will be ready to speak.
4. We cannot be ready for all of life's changes! 1 Thessalonians 4:18
- A. We are not always ready for how life can change in an instant.
 - B. Thanks be to God, God's goodness and grace in Jesus, the Perfect Sign of Love, is ready to give us faith, make us ready in case life changes, change our lives and hearts along the way!
5. Thanks be to God, Jesus is ready for anything! God's goodness and grace are ready for us in every sign of love. When we need God most, God will not be somewhere else, doing something else. Let us indeed be ready for Jesus in every way, for Jesus is ready and waiting for us!
1 Thessalonians 4:17, Matthew 25:10-11

*Today's service includes the song,
"People Get Ready" by Mayfield*