



# Seize the Moment

## Glory to Jesus Christ!

A popular song of the mid-1970s began with the words, “Time keeps on slippin’, slippin’, slippin’ into the future.” This fact of reality is the same for each of us, except we don’t know **how much time we have**.

As Orthodox Christians, we believe that however much time we have, it is **a blessing from God** and opportunities to enjoy being with others, growing closer to God, and most importantly, our time to live in a way worthy of Judgment Day.

### ☞ The Path to Salvation

Jesus teaches that **how we live each day** impacts how we will be recognized and judged by God the Father. That day may be distant and far away, but like an upcoming quiz in school, it will eventually come, so **we need to prepare now!**

The rich man in today’s gospel parable *did* focus on the here and now, but his actions were self-centered. He shared with his friends, but he didn’t share with those in need, not even with the beggar on his doorstep.

### Known by Our Fruit

When the rich man died, he came **face to face with the reality** that a life lacking in love of others results in God not recognizing him.

God recognizes us by our actions – both the good and bad (Matthew 7:17-20). If we repent of our failings, **He will forgive us**. If we are humble in our good deeds, **He will reward us**. But if we act like the rich man, we will too will not be welcomed into Paradise by God.

### All the Tools Needed

While the message of **today’s gospel lesson is serious**, it is not without hope. Jesus Christ provides a clear path for us for drawing closer to God. He instructs us in the value of following His example. **The saints are outstanding examples** of how we can follow Christ.

While it may be temporarily difficult to gather as community as we’ve come to expect, our Orthodox Faith can still be expressed in **the liturgy of our daily lives** through prayer, acts of charity, compassion, and especially when we receive the Eucharist.

May **the saints inspire us** to help when someone is in need, repent when we offend, forgive when we are wronged, and offer prayers, and **love others as God loves us**.

## ☞ Scripture Readings

for the 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: **1 Cor 12:27-31; 13:1-8**

Gospel: **Luke 16:19-31**



## ☞ Hymns of the Day

### Troparion/Apolytikion — Tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of the Resurrection they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.”

### Kontakion — Tone 4

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as master, He has risen on the third day!

Parents, Church School Teachers & Youth Directors: Watch for the ☞ to indicate topics/questions you can use to inspire conversations with youth. Or use the corresponding study guide for this resource.

# Every day, we have many opportunities to DO THE RIGHT THING!

As Orthodox Christians, we can make a both **LIVE GODLY LIVES** and make a difference in our own lives by positively **IMPACTING THOSE AROUND US**.

Below is a list of different **GODLY ACTIVITIES WE CAN DO**, some on a daily basis, some less frequently. Check the boxes where an activity is a service to God, or service to our neighbors,...or to both God and our neighbor!

There's room at the end of this list to **ADD YOUR OWN IDEAS AND EXAMPLES** of doing the right thing.

After going through the list, **CIRCLE THE ACTIONS** you are currently doing or want to incorporate into your daily life.

## Ways to Serve God

## Ways to Serve Your Neighbor

<input type="checkbox"/>	Do something good when no one is looking	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pause when you feel angry	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fast on Wednesdays and Fridays	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Help at a FOCUS North America (or social service) location	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consider the value of vocations in your life	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visit the grave of a departed relative and say a prayer	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Say the pre- and post-communion prayers	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Participate in a fall or spring clean-up at your parish	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Say morning and evening prayers	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pray to St. Maria of Paris to become more aware of the needs of others	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Seek to understand another person's point of view	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Acknowledge what someone says to you, showing you're listening	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Read from the Book of Proverbs	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donate extra clothing to a social services organization	<input type="checkbox"/>
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