

13. October 2026

Feast of Saint Edward, King
“The vigilance of a Christian”

NOTE: Today we will hear the Gospel reading for the memorial of St. Edward the King according to the traditional rite.

Lk 12:35–40

At that time, Jesus said to his disciples: “Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the marriage feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes; truly, I say to you, he will gird himself and have them sit at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the householder had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would have been awake and would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

In this Gospel text, the Lord shows us clearly how we Christians should live, and it is essential that we put this attitude into practice in our daily lives. It is not in the first instance a watchfulness that results from a fear of forgetting something important (although this form of care is also valuable); but it is a watchfulness that springs from an awakened love. The Lord for whom we wait is not a Lord to be feared, but one to be longed for with all our heart, for His presence is the most beautiful thing we can find.

Here a nuptial love is manifested; that is, not only the love of a child for its father, but that which longs for the most intimate union with its Lord. And since this love awakens all that is in us, the Bridegroom can come at any hour and find us ready for Him.

Now, how can we achieve this watchfulness in love?

Let us try to understand the Lord's words in today's Gospel: „*See that you have your belts done up*“. This might indicate that we should not settle into the comfort of natural life

or feel at home in the sensual world. This warm comfort lulls us to sleep, when we are too attached to it. We must learn to manage our natural life wisely, so that our spiritual vigilance is not reduced. This applies to everything that touches our senses, such as eating and sleeping, which must be integrated into our life but not made too important.

The Gospel goes on to say: “*See that you have your lamps lit*”. The Lord mentions burning lamps when speaking of good works, to which we are to be dedicated. He is certainly referring to what we call the „works of mercy“. Love put into practice keeps our hearts on watch, particularly when we keep in mind that whatever we do, we do for Jesus. These works also include prayer and the care we must take in our spiritual journey, so that we do not miss the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who keeps us alive.

This watchful love requires us always to keep our eyes fixed on the Lord; to follow the promptings of the spirit of piety, which impels us to please God; to lay up treasures for heaven; to purify our conscience again and again, so that we remain attached to the Lord. In this way, our loving relationship with Him will grow ever closer, and we will no longer be merely servants awaiting the return of our Lord, but loving souls who long for the coming of the Bridegroom and are ever attentive to Him.