

- From here to the end of the Church's year and early on into Advent the readings at Mass will speak about death and the end of time. We are all heading to judgment day. It is time to be afraid, to be very afraid. Supposedly, because we are a people of hope we are invited to look to judgment day with confidence. But I have discovered visiting many people that judgment day for many people is a terrifying prospect. As far as lots of people are concerned they are all going to Hell. There is no way they are going to pass the Heavenly exam.
- Truth is we were all foolish bridesmaids once. We were all foolish groomsmen once. We got so caught up in the day putting on our wedding clothes that we did not pay attention to the things that matter. Now we are all old foolish bridesmaids and groomsmen. We still won't pay attention. The sins of the past are locked in a box. I have thrown the box into the sea and I have thrown the key away. Maybe if I don't pay attention they might go away, but every night when I go to sleep the monster sleeps under the bed.
- Right now it is time to party because Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming. Time to spend too much money on things I don't need and things I can't afford. Garth Brooks sang his lovely song wondering "If tomorrow never comes" but I have bad news for Garth. Tomorrow does come and we have clean up and reconcile with our past. I can't go forward until I have finished what I have left behind. It seems to me that the monster sleeping under the bed is the metaphor for unfinished business, apologies that were never given, things unsaid, wrongs that should be made right.
- I think the most beautiful thing to say to another person is to ask them sincerely for forgiveness. Let me say that to God and to all the people I have wronged. I think by doing that it invited the noble part of my character to come forth. It is time for me to do right by people. The sincere apology invites the noble part of the other person to come forth as well. Their proper response should be to say, "I forgive you and I still love you." If they choose not to forgive then all I can say is that I took care of my part of the reconciliation.
- Before God, I have done wrong. I profess to be this upright moral person who loves God and loves my neighbor. I did wrong before God and I act like I have gotten away with it. There is a wonderful piece of film on Youtube that shows a bunch of gals getting out of a Uber cab in New York. Right in front of the camera one of those women reached into the driver's tip jar and stole all his money. She was caught red handed on camera. I would love to speak to her mother.
- We must not live our lives like foolish bridesmaids and groomsmen. We can't be heading for the exit and hope the box stays at the bottom of the ocean and God never finds out. A scary notice I once read comes to mind. It sounds beautiful when I have nothing to hide.

But it is frightening to all of us who guard our secrets. Christ is the head of our house. He is the unseen guest at every meal. He is the silent listener to every conversation. If I am under the illusion that God will never find out, we remind ourselves that angelic spies are all around us. God knows.

- Maybe it is time for me to clean up my act. Maybe the words of today's psalm can be the springboard of a new prayer to God. My soul is thirsting for you O Lord my God. You are my God and I am searching for you. My flesh pines for you and my soul thirsts. I am like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water. I have gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, for your kindness is a greater good than life. My lips shall glorify you. I will lift up my hands to you and I will call upon your name. As with the riches of a wedding banquet my soul shall be satisfied. With exultant lips my mouth shall praise you. I will remember you upon my couch and through the night I will think about you because you are my help. I rest myself in the shadow of your wings. There I shout for joy.