Readings + 25th Sunday aft. Pentecost ~ Lect. 33 A + Nov. 15, 2026

Prayer of the Day

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

First Reading Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
and has consecrated the guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will the LORD do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like those who are blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of the LORD's passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
the LORD will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Psalmody Psalm 90:1-8, 12

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.
You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."
For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;
you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:
in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.
For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Paul writes: 1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, dear family, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake

and be sober; 7 for those who sleep sleep at night,
and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But
since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and
put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a
helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has
destined us not for wrath but for obtaining
salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who
died for us, so that whether we are awake or
asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore
encourage one another and build up each other,
as indeed you are doing.

Holy Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

Luke also includes a similar parable, but the details (number of slaves, amount given them, other side details) differ from the version in Matthew, and it doesn't appear late in his ministry, making Luke's likely to be another version Jesus told.

Jesus said to the disciples, 14 "For *the reign of heaven*
is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his
slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to
one he gave five talents, to another two, to
another one, to each according to his ability.
Then he went away.

16 "At once the one who had received the five
talents went off and traded with them and made
five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who
had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But
the one who had received the one talent went off
and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's
money.

19 "After a long time the master of those
slaves came and settled accounts with them.
20 Then the one who had received the five talents
came forward, bringing five more talents, saying,
'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I
have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to
him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you
have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put
you in charge of many things; enter into the joy
of your master.' 22 And the one with the two
talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you
handed over to me two talents; see, I have made
two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well
done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in
charge of many things; enter into the joy of your
master.'

24 "'Then the one who had received the one
talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew
that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did
not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter
seed; 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your
talent in the ground. Here you have what is
yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and
lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I
did not sow and gather where I did not scatter?
27 Then you ought to have invested my money
with the bankers, and on my return I would have
received what was my own with interest. 28 So
take the talent from him, and give it to the one
with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have,
more will be given, and they will have an
abundance; but from those who have nothing,
even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for
this worthless slave, throw him into the outer
darkness, where there will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth.' "