

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."

¹³Their 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.

¹⁴The 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.

¹⁵That 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,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Psalms 90:1-8 [9-11] 12**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons,
brothers and sisters, you do not need to have
anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know
very well that the day of the Lord will come like a
thief in the night. ³When 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! ⁴But you,
beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to
surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of
light and children of the day; we are not of the
night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep
as others do, but let us keep awake and be

sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and
those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But 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. ⁹For God has destined us not
for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our
Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that
whether we are awake or asleep we may live with
him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build
up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴For it is as if a man,
going on a journey, summoned his slaves and
entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave
five talents, to another two, to another one, to
each according to his ability. Then he went
away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents
went off at once and traded with them, and made
five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who
had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But
the one who had received the one talent went off
and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's
money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those
slaves came and settled accounts with
them. ²⁰Then 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.' ²¹His
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.' ²²And 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.' ²³His 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.' ²⁴Then 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; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid
your talent in the ground. Here you have what is
yours.' ²⁶But 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? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my
money with the bankers, and on my return I would
have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So
take the talent from him, and give it to the one
with the ten talents. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰As for this
worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of
teeth.' "