FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
[not printed]

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Now concerning the times and the seasons,
brothers and sisters, 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 de-
struction will come upon them, as labor pains
come upon a pregnant woman, and there will
be no escape! [4]But you, brothers and sisters,
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 des-
tined us not for wrath but for obtaining salva-
tion 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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30
[Jesus said to the disciples:] "For it 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. At once [16]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 mas-
ter said to him, 'Well done, good and trustwor-
thy 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 mas-
ter said to him, 'Well done, good and trustwor-
thy 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, [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.'"

Next Sunday's Readings: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46.

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