The Word of God

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 15, 2026

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit, that while keeping the end of all things in mind, we may be stirred up to holiness in this life and come to be with you forever in that life to come. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7-16

7 Be silent before the LORD God! For the day of the LORD is near; the
LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. 8 And
on the day of the LORD's sacrifice — "I will punish the officials
and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire.
9 On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud.
10 On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the
Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the
hills. 11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are
no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. 12 At that time I will
search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are
complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do
good, nor will he do ill.' 13 Their goods 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
mighty man cries aloud there. 15 A day of wrath is that day, 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.

Psalm 90:1-12

1 LORD, you have | been our refuge*
from one generation | to another.
2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the | earth were born,*
from age to age | you are God.
3 You turn us back to the | dust and say,*
"Go back, O | child of earth."
4 For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when | it is past*
and like a watch | in the night.
5 You sweep us away | like a dream;*
we fade away suddenly | like the grass.
6 In the morning it is | green and flourishes;*
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
7 For we consume away in | your displeasure;*
we are afraid because of your wrathful | indignation.
8 Our iniquities you have | set before you,*
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.
9 When you are angry, all our | days are gone;*
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
10 The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength | even eighty;*
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.
11 Who regards the power | of your wrath?*
who rightly fears your | indignation?
12 So teach us to num- | ber our days*
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have
no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are
fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the
night. 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security,"
then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains
come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But
you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you
like a thief. 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day.
We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not
sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7 For those
who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk
at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having
put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the
hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to
obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for
us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with
him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another
up, just as you are doing.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

14 {Jesus said to the disciples,} "For it will be like a man going
on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his
property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another
one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He
who had received the five talents went at once and traded with
them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the
two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received
the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's
money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came
and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the
five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying,
'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five
talents more.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and
faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set
you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And he also
who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you
delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.'
23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.
You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much.
Enter into the joy of your master.' 24 He also who had received
the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a
hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where
you scattered no 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 answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You
knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I
scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money
with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what
was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and
give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has
will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from
the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And
cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Lessons for Next Week: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a;
1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Matthew 25:31-46

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