

## **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, 12 NOVEMBER 2023**

**FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24** The day of the Lord

<sup>18</sup> Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for the day of the LORD? That day will be darkness, not light. <sup>19</sup> It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. <sup>20</sup> Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light – pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness? <sup>21</sup> ‘I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. <sup>22</sup> Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. <sup>23</sup> Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. <sup>24</sup> But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

### **PSALM 70**

<sup>1</sup> Hasten, O God, to save me; come quickly, LORD, to help me. <sup>2</sup> May those who want to take my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace. <sup>3</sup> May those who say to me, ‘Aha! Aha!’ turn back because of their shame. <sup>4</sup> But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for your saving help always say, ‘The LORD is great!’ <sup>5</sup> But as for me, I am poor and needy; come quickly to me, O God. You are my help and my deliverer; LORD, do not delay.

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** Questions about the Lord’s coming

<sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup> According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that

we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.<sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever.<sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13** Parable of the wise and foolish girls

**25** “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.<sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish and five were wise.<sup>3</sup> The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.<sup>4</sup> The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.<sup>5</sup> The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.<sup>6</sup> “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’<sup>7</sup> “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.<sup>8</sup> The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’<sup>9</sup> “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’<sup>10</sup> “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.<sup>11</sup> “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’<sup>12</sup> “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’<sup>13</sup> “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.