The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Year A
15th November 2026

Sentence: 1 Thessalonians 5.9, 11
God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other.

Collect:
Everliving God,
before the earth was formed,
and even after it shall cease to be, you are God.
Break into our short span of life
and show us those things that are eternal,
that we may serve your purpose in all we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Zephaniah 1.7, 12-18
A reading from the book of the Prophet Zephaniah

7 Be 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. 12 At 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.' 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 the
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 his passion the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.
Hear the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90.1-12

1 Lord, you have been our refuge:
from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were born
or the earth and the world were brought to be:
from eternity to eternity you are God.

3 You turn us back into dust:
saying 'Return to dust, O children of Adam.'

4 For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday passing:
or like one watch of the night.

5 You cut them short like a dream:
like the fresh grass of the morning;

6 In the morning it is green and flourishes:
at evening it is withered and dried up.

7 And we are consumed by your anger:
because of your indignation we cease to be.

8 You have brought our iniquities before you:
and our secret sins to the light of your countenance.

9 Our days decline beneath your wrath:
and our years pass away like a sigh.

10 The days of our life are three score years and ten,
or if we have strength, four score:
the pride of our labours is but toil and sorrow,
for it passes quickly away and we are gone.

11 Who can know the power of your wrath:
who can know your indignation like those that fear you?

12 Teach us so to number our days:
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

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Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

A reading from the first Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

1 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 destruction will come upon them, as labour 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.

Hear the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: John 15.4-5

Alleluia. **Alleluia!**
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 25.14-30

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew,

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

14 '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. 16 The one who had received the
five talents went off at once 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."

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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