The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Year A
8th November 2026

Sentence: Matthew 24.42, 44
Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Collect:
Eternal God,
you have taught us that the night is far spent
and the day is at hand:
keep us awake and alert,
watching for your kingdom,
so that when Christ, the bridegroom, comes
we may go out joyfully to meet him,
and with him enter into the marriage feast
that you have prepared for all who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Amos 5.18-24
A reading from the book of the Prophet Amos

18 Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the
Lord? It is darkness, not light; 19 as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a
bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a
snake. 20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no
brightness in it? 21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your
solemn assemblies. 22 Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-
offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted
animals I will not look upon. 23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will
not listen to the melody of your harps. 24 But let justice roll down like waters, and
righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
Hear the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 70

1 O God, be pleased to deliver me:
O Lord, make haste to help me.

2 Let them be put to shame and confounded
who seek my life:
let them be turned back and disgraced who wish me evil.

3 Let them turn away for shame:
who say to me 'Aha, aha!'

4 Let all who seek you be joyful and glad because of you:
let those who love your salvation
say always 'God is great.'

5 As for me, I am poor and needy:
O God, be swift to save me.

6 You are my helper and my deliverer:
O Lord, make no delay.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4.9-18
A reading from the first Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

9 Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone
write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another;
10 and indeed you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But
we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more, 11 to aspire to live quietly, to mind
your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we directed you, 12 so that you
may behave properly towards outsiders and be dependent on no one. 13 But we do
not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so
that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that
Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those
who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who
are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those
who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the
archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven,
and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be
caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we
will be with the Lord for ever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these
words.
Hear the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

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Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 24.42-44

Alleluia. **Alleluia!**
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 25.1-13

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew,
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

1 ‘Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps
and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4 but the wise took
flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became
drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, “Look! Here is the
bridegroom! Come out to meet him.” 7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and
trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for
our lamps are going out.” 9 But the wise replied, “No! there will not be enough for
you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.”
10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready
went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 11 Later the other
bridesmaids came also, saying, “Lord, lord, open to us.” 12 But he replied, “Truly I
tell you, I do not know you.” 13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the
day nor the hour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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