

Readings 22nd November

2nd before Advent

Zephaniah 1:12-18

¹² And it will come about at that time That I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
And I will punish the people Who are [Ⓜ]stagnant in spirit,
Who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good nor harm!'
¹³ Their wealth will become plunder, And their houses desolate;
Yes, they will build houses but not inhabit *them*, And plant vineyards but not drink
their wine." ¹⁴ The great day of the LORD is near, Near and coming very quickly;
Listen, the day of the LORD! [Ⓜ]In it the warrior cries out bitterly. ¹⁵ That day is a day of
anger, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation,
A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶ A day of trumpet and battle cry Against the fortified cities And the high corner
towers. ¹⁷ I will bring distress on mankind So that they will walk like those who are
blind, Because they have sinned against the LORD; And their blood will 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 anger; And all the earth will be devoured By the
fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a horrifying one,
Of all the inhabitants of the earth.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The Day of the Lord

⁵ Now as to the periods and [Ⓜ]times, brothers *and sisters*, you have no need of
anything to be written to you. ² For you yourselves know full well that the day of the
Lord is coming just like a thief in the night. ³ While they are saying, "Peace and
safety!" then sudden destruction [Ⓜ]will come upon them like labor pains upon a
pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you, brothers *and sisters*, are not
in darkness, so that the day would overtake you [Ⓜ]like a thief; ⁵ for you are all sons of
light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; ⁶ so then, let's not sleep
as [Ⓜ]others do, but let's be alert and [Ⓜ]sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and
those who are drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we are of *the* day, let's be [Ⓜ]sober,
having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of
salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us 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 will live together with Him. ¹¹ Therefore, ^[e]encourage one another and build one another up, just as you also are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30

Parable of the Talents

¹⁴ "For *it is* just like a man *about* to go on a journey, *who* called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five ^[a]talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents immediately went and did business with them, and earned five more *talents*. ¹⁷ In the same way the one who *had received* the two *talents* earned two more. ¹⁸ But he who received the one *talent* went away and dug *a hole in the ground*, and hid his ^[b]master's money. ¹⁹ "Now after a long time the master of those slaves *came and *settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have earned five more talents.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter the joy of your ^[c]master.' ²² "Also the one who *had received* the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have earned two more talents.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter the joy of your master.' ²⁴ "Now the one who had received the one talent also came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter *seed*. ²⁵ And I was afraid, so I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you *still* have what is yours.'

²⁶ "But his master answered and said to him, 'You ^[d]worthless, lazy slave! Did you know that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter *seed*? ²⁷ Then you ought to have ^[e]put my money in the bank, and ^[f]on my arrival I would have received my *money* back with interest. ²⁸ Therefore: take the talent away from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.'

²⁹ "For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. ³⁰ And throw the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.