Old Testament Reading *Amos 5:18–24*

(The day of the Lord will bring justice and righteousness that silences all false and shallow worship.)

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why would you have the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, and not light,
19 as if a man fled from a lion,
and a bear met him,
or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,
and a serpent bit him.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 "I hate, I despise your feasts,
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 peace offerings of your fattened animals,
I will not look upon them.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
24 But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Lesson *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*

(We grieve with hope and await the day when Christ will awaken all who are asleep.)

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, 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 fallen asleep.
15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.
16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.
18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel *Matthew 25:1–13*

(Watch for the Bridegroom, who will return at any moment.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

1[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who
took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were
foolish, and five were wise. 3For when the foolish took their lamps, they
took no oil with them, 4but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.
5As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. 6But
at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet
him.' 7Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. 8And the
foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going
out.' 9But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for
us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' 10And
while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were
ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.
11Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.'
12But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13Watch
therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**