

Today's Readings
12th November
2023
Remembrance
Sunday

THE COLLECT

God, our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end,
that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING

Amos 5.18-24

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.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

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.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 25.1-13

'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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of peace,
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life:

look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

PSALM 70

¹ Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.
O Lord, make haste to help me!
² Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life. Let those be turned back and brought to dishonour who desire to hurt me.
³ Let those who say, 'Aha, Aha!' turn back because of their shame.
⁴ Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, 'God is great!'
⁵ But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not delay!