

First Scripture Reading
I Thessalonians 5:1-11
New Revised Standard Version

The Day of the Lord

- ¹ Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you,
- ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
- ³ While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.
- ⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.
- ⁵ You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.
- ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.
- ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.

- 8** But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.
- 9** For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 10** He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.
- 11** Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Second Scripture Reading
Matthew 25:14-30
New Revised Standard Version

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

- 14** "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.
- 15** To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.
- 16** The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more.
- 17** So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more.
- 18** But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.
- 19** "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.
- 20** The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you

entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

22 "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

24 "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not

sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?

- 27** Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.
- 28** “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.
- 29** For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.
- 30** And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’