



LECTIONARY

FIRST READING

ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, “The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.” Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord’s wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People: Thanks be to God

PSALM 90: 1-8, (9-11), 12

1 Lord, you have been our	and say, *
refuge *	“Go back, O child of earth.”
from one generation to another.	4 For a thousand years in
2 Before the mountains were	your sight are like yesterday
brought forth, or the land and	when it is past *
the earth were born, *	and like a watch in the night.
from age to age you are God.	5 You sweep us away like a
3 You turn us back to the dust	dream; *

we fade away suddenly like the grass.

6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

*(9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; **

we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

*10 The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; **

yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

*11 Who regards the power of your wrath? **

who rightly fears your indignation?)

12 So teach us to number our days *

that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Lector: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.**

People: **Thanks be to God**

Officiant: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

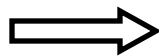
The Parable
of the
Talents



GOSPEL

MATTHEW 25:14-30

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven will be as when a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those



Officiant: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

The Collect for Today

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayers of the People

Form I BCP pg 383

In the Anglican Cycle of prayer:

Let us pray for the worldwide Anglican Communion especially for Uyo in (Niger Delta, Nigeria);

In the Diocesan Cycle of prayer:

We pray for all in the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona especially St. Philip’s In The Hills of Tucson;

Prayers For the Parish

Teach us good lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not heed the wounds; to work and not seek for rest; to labor and not ask to any reward. Except that by knowing we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **AMEN**

Transitioning New Life at St. Stephen’s

Holy God, make us Holy. Revealing God, make us see. Sending God, make us move. Loving God, make us Love. **AMEN**