

Day Texts

Sunday, November 8, 2026
Lectionary 32, Year A

Introduction

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.

We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.

**We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.**

We are not awake to the coming of your reign.

**Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.**

Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace.

✙ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.

You are forgiven.

Blessed are you.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Keep awake [†] and be ready,* for you do not know on what day your [†] Lord is coming.

Alleluia. (Matt. 24:42, 44)

Readings and Psalms

Amos 5:18-24

Let justice roll down like waters

Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 (alternate)

Wisdom Wisdom makes herself known

Psalms 70

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)

Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 (alternate)

The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction. (Ws. 6:17)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The promise of the resurrection

Matthew 25:1-13

The story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids

Semicontinuous First Reading and Psalm

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Joshua calls Israel to serve the LORD

Psalms 78:1-7

We will recount to generations to come the power of the LORD. (Ps. 78:4)

READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

- ¹⁸ Woe to 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 water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

PSALM: Psalm 70

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)

- ¹ Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.
² **Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**
³ Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me
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 forever, "Great is the LORD!"**
⁵ But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

¹³ 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 forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women 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 young women 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 young women 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.”

Semicontinuous First Reading: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

In the Near East, covenant means “agreement” or “alliance.” It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

¹ Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ^{3a} Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

¹⁴ “Now, therefore, revere the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land

you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶ Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, ¹⁷ for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went and among all the peoples through whom we passed, ¹⁸ and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.” ²¹ And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!” ²² Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” ²³ He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” ²⁴ The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” ²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Semicontinuous Psalm: Psalm 78:1-7

We will recount to generations to come the power of the LORD. (Ps. 78:4)

¹ Hear my teaching, | O my people;
incline your ears to the words | of my mouth.

² **I will open my mouth | in a parable;**
I will declare the mysteries of | ancient times—

³ that which we have heard and known, and what our fore- | bears have told us,
we will not hide | from their children.

⁴ **We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power | of the LORD,**
and the wonderful works | God has done. R

⁵ The LORD gave a decree in Jacob and established a | law in Israel,
commanding our ancestors to teach it | to their children;

⁶ **that the generations to come might know, and the children | yet unborn;**
that they in their turn might tell it | to their children;

⁷ so that they might put their | trust in God,
and not forget the deeds of God, but keep | God’s commandments. **R**

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict (*relief ministries or organizations may be named*). Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. (*We pray especially for . . .*) God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

Amen.

Offering Prayer

Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Invitation to Communion

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

Prayer after Communion

Holy God,
we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost,
bind the injured,
and feed your people abundantly.
Now send us out,
awake to your presence,
now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

The holy Trinity,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Martin, Bishop of Tours, died 397

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Martin's pagan father enlisted him in the Roman army. Approached by a beggar, Martin cut his cloak in half and gave part to the man, whom he later understood as representing Christ. He asked to leave the army, but was jailed instead. After his release, he became a preacher, and later a bishop.

Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, died 1855

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Kierkegaard was a Danish theologian whose writings also gave rise to the modern philosophy of existentialism. He frequently attacked the complacency of the state church of his day, as well as its desire to be accepted by polite society rather than be a stumbling block.

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