Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost;

08 November 2026

Sentence

Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Matthew 24.42, 44

Collect

Eternal God,
you have taught us that the night is far spent
and the day is at hand:
keep us awake and alert,
watching for your kingdom,
so that when Christ, the bridegroom, comes
we may go out joyfully to meet him,
and with him enter into the marriage feast
that you have prepared for all who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading

Joshua 24.1-3a; 24.14-25

1 Then 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. 3 Then I took your
father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the
land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac;
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.

Psalm

Psalm 78.1-7

1 Give heed to my teaching, O my people:
incline your ears to the words of my mouth;
2 For I will open my mouth in a parable:
and expound the mysteries of former times.
3 What we have heard and known:
what our forebears have told us,
4 We will not hide from their children,

but declare to a generation yet to come:
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
his mighty and wonderful works.
5 He established a law in Jacob
and made a decree in Israel:
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach their children,
6 That future generations might know,
and those yet unborn:
that they in turn might teach it to their children;
7 So that they might put their confidence in God:
and not forget his works, but keep his commandments,
.

2nd Reading

1 Thessalonians 4.9-18

9 Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need
to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught
by God to love one another; 10 and indeed you do love all the
brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you,
beloved, to do so more and more, 11 to aspire to live quietly, to mind
your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we directed you,
12 so that you may behave properly towards outsiders and be
dependent on no one. 13 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.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25.1-13

1 ‘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.