

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (CEB)

We don't need to write to you about the timing and dates, brothers and sisters. ²You know very well that the day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. ³When they are saying, "There is peace and security," at that time sudden destruction will attack them, like labor pains start with a pregnant woman, and they definitely won't escape. ⁴But you aren't in darkness, brothers and sisters, so the day won't catch you by surprise like a thief. ⁵All of you are children of light and children of the day. We don't belong to night or darkness. ⁶So then, let's not sleep like the others, but let's stay awake and stay sober. ⁷People who sleep sleep at night, and people who get drunk get drunk at night. ⁸Since we belong to the day, let's stay sober, wearing faithfulness and love as a piece of armor that protects our body^[a] and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹God didn't intend for us to suffer his wrath but rather to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰Jesus died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with him. ¹¹So continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then 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.' ²¹His 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.' ²²And 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.' ²³His 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.' ²⁴Then 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; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But 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? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those 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. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ”