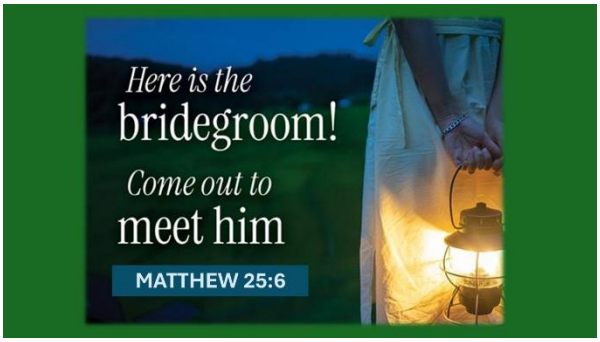
The Readings on This Day



****Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

Sunday, November 6–12

Lectionary 32

The readings appointed for the Sundays in November deal with the end: the conclusion of the liturgical year, one's own death, the end of the earth as we know it, and even the "dying" of vegetation around those of us who live in the northern hemisphere. At the end of everything is God, and in the readings we encounter this God already arriving for us, with the promised feast begun in our meal of bread and wine.

Amos 5:18-24

The Amos passage is chosen to emphasize Matthew's repeated call for justice. Amos's imagery of being chased by wild animals contrasts with Matthew's imagery of the wedding banquet: throughout the Bible, God is known for both justice and mercy.

The Psalm for the Day

Having heard the warning from Amos, we respond by singing **Psalm 70**, a prayer for deliverance from one's enemies. Those enemies might be an invading army or one's own unpreparedness for the coming of God. We ask God to be our helper and deliverer.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The lectionary's appointing 1 Thessalonians during November brings Paul's eschatological predictions to the same Sunday as the parable of the bridesmaids. We who no longer accept a three-tier universe can use this description as a metaphor for the total transformation of the entire cosmos at the arrival of God. Life from God will conquer death.

Matthew 25:1-13

For millennia humans have told disaster stories about the end. Christians too speak of the coming of the end of things. Yet Christians also see in the resurrection of Jesus Christ already the end of the old and the beginning of the new. Thus we are already the bridesmaids who enjoy the feast, for when praying in the garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26:36-46), Jesus kept awake for us.