Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 27

The Collect:

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Lesson: Amos 5:18-24

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

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; *
O Lord, make haste to help me.
2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed
and altogether dismayed; *
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 they are ashamed.
4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say for ever,
"Great is the Lord!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
come to me speedily, O God.
6 You are my helper and my deliverer; *
O Lord, do not tarry.

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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 forever. 18 Therefore encourage
one another with these words.

Gospel: 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.