

**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.*

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; 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. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. 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. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

R: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm 70**

**Read responsively by verses**

***As reader, please read the responses too,  
so it will be picked up by the microphone for our viewers at home.***

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me.

**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.**

Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;**

**let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the Lord!”**

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.*

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. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 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. 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. 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. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

R: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**