

## **BIBLE READINGS FOR SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2020 – SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**

### **Psalm 90:1-12**

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

<sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. <sup>3</sup> You turn people back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."

<sup>4</sup> A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. <sup>5</sup> Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death— they are like the new grass of the morning: <sup>6</sup> In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered. <sup>7</sup> We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. <sup>8</sup> You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. <sup>9</sup> All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. <sup>10</sup> Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. <sup>11</sup> If only we knew the power of your anger! Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due. <sup>12</sup> Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

### **I Thessalonians 5: 1-11**

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup> for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

### **Matthew 25: 14-30**

<sup>14</sup> "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,<sup>[a]</sup> each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup> So also, the one with two bags of gold

gained two more. <sup>18</sup> But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup> "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' <sup>21</sup> "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' <sup>22</sup> "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' <sup>23</sup> "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' <sup>24</sup> "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' <sup>26</sup> "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup> Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. <sup>28</sup> "'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. <sup>29</sup> For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

#### **4 Key Sermon Questions/Notes:**

[ ] Is there ONE verse or key thought that stands out to you that you'd like to meditate on, pray about, or research more this coming week? Write it down here.

[ ] What did you learn about God? About people?

[ ] Any life-lessons to apply? How do you plan to apply them?

[ ] What can we pray for one another as a result of today's sermon?