

November 8, 2020 – Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

***The Collect***

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Let us pray.

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.*

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*First Reading:*

***A Reading from the Book of Amos***

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord:

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 everflowing stream.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.*

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***Wisdom of Solomon***

The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction,  
and concern for instruction is love of her,  
and love of her is the keeping of her laws,  
and giving heed to her laws is assurance of immortality,  
and immortality brings one near to God;  
so the desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom.

*Second Reading:*

***A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians***

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.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.*