

Reading for November 19th, 2023
Woodbury Methodist Church

A reading from the book of Amos 5:18-24 and Matthew 25:1-13

The Day of the LORD a Dark Day

- 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.

The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

25 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women^[a] took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.^[b] **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 young women^[c] 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 young women^[d] 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.^[e]

This Scripture is the feast of Wisdom
Thanks be to God