

**FIRST READING**

1 Thessalonians 5:1–6

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians**

**B**rothers and sisters:

I don't need to write you  
about the time or date when all this will happen.  
You surely know that the Lord's return  
will be as a thief coming at night.  
People will think they are safe and secure.  
But destruction will suddenly strike them  
like the pains of a woman about to give birth.  
And they won't escape.

My dear friends, you don't live in darkness,  
and so that day won't surprise you like a thief.  
All of you belong to the light and live in the day.  
We don't live in the night or belong to the dark.  
Others may sleep,  
but we should stay awake and be alert.

**The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Psalm 27:1, 13–14*

**All:** *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

*You, LORD, are the light  
that keeps me safe.  
I am not afraid of anyone.  
You protect me,  
and I have no fears.*

**All:** *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

*LORD, I know I will live  
to see how kind you are.  
Trust the LORD!  
Be brave and strong  
and trust the LORD.*

**All:** *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 25:14–15, 19–21

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus told his disciples this story about the kingdom of God:

“The kingdom is like what happened when a man went away  
and put his three servants in charge of all he owned.

The man knew what each servant could do.

So he handed five thousand coins to the first servant,  
two thousand to the second,  
and one thousand to the third.

Then he left the country.

“Some time later the master of those servants returned.

He called them in

and asked what they had done with his money.

The servant who had been given five thousand coins

brought them in with the five thousand that he had earned.

He said, ‘Sir, you gave me five thousand coins,  
and I have earned five thousand more.’

“‘Wonderful!’ his master replied,

‘You are a good and faithful servant.

I left you in charge of only a little,

but now I will put you in charge of much more.

Come and share in my happiness!’”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**