

# Sunday Readings for the Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

## **Midrash, Kohelet Rabbah 7:13**

(Ancient Commentary on the Book of Ecclesiastes)

When God created Adam, God led him around the Garden of Eden and said to him: "Behold my works. See how wonderful and beautiful they are. All that I have created, for your sake did I create it. Now see to it that you do not spoil and destroy my world, for if you do, there will be no one to repair it after you."

### **Psalm 90:1-8, , 12**

### **Domine, refugium**

1 Lord, you have been our refuge \*  
from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born, \*  
from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say, \*  
"Go back, O child of earth."

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past \*  
and like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep us away like a dream; \*  
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; \*  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

7 For we consume away in your displeasure; \*  
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

8 Our iniquities you have set before you, \*  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

12 So teach us to number our days \*  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

## Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"