

## First Sunday of Advent, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020



Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.  
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*The Lighting of the Advent wreath*  
Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith  
and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment.  
May we be obedient to your call  
and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ,  
a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;  
for you are our light and our salvation.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Turn to us again, O God our saviour,  
and let your anger cease from us:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Show us your compassion, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,  
that glory may dwell in our land:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of Love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

Blessed is the Lord  
**for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**  
therefore shall our hearts dance for joy  
**and in our song we will praise our God.**

### *The Collect for the day*

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

### *Hearing and responding to the Word of God*

*(We encourage you to look at the readings in your own time and will continue with the Gospel)*

**First Reading:** Isaiah 64.1-9

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence – <sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your

presence. <sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

<sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

## **Psalm 80.** 1-8,18-20

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you that led Joseph like a flock;
- 2 Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,  
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
- 3 Stir up your mighty strength  
and come to our salvation.
- 4 *Turn us again, O God;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*
- 5 O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?
- 6 You feed them with the bread of tears;  
you give them abundance of tears to drink.
- 7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 8 *Turn us again, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*
- 18 Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand,  
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.
- 19 And so will we not go back from you;  
give us life, and we shall call upon your name.
- 20 *Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

## **Second Reading:** I Corinthians 1.3-9

My brothers and sisters: <sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – <sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Gospel:** Mark 13.24-37

Jesus said to his disciples: <sup>24</sup>In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. <sup>28</sup>From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>32</sup>But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

## *Reflection*

### *Prayers of Intercession*

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid  
we pray to Jesus.  
Come to your Church as Lord and judge.  
We pray for all Christian people;  
for Stephen our Archbishop and John our bishop,  
and for all who teach and guard the faith.  
Help us to live in the light of your coming  
and give us a longing for your kingdom.  
Maranatha:  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations.  
We pray for the leaders of nations,  
and for those in authority under them.  
Give them the gift of your wisdom,  
and a right discernment in all things.  
Before you rulers will stand in silence.  
Maranatha:  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.  
We pray for our villages and parishes,  
for those who live, work and visit here,  
and for all who seek the common good.  
Speak your word of peace in our midst,  
and help us to serve one another as Christ has served us.  
Break into our lives,  
where we struggle with sickness and distress,  
and set us free to serve you for ever.  
Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.  
We pray for those bowed down with grief, fear or sickness;  
May Christ your living Word bring them comfort and healing.  
Give us with all the faithful departed  
a share in your victory over evil and death.  
Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.  
Lift us up to meet you,  
that with all your saints and angels  
we may live and reign with you in your new creation.  
Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*For the Nation*

Loving Father God,  
be with us in our distress;  
be with our families, friends, and neighbours,  
our country and our world.  
Give health to the sick,  
hope to the fearful,  
and comfort to mourners.  
Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers,  
insight to our Government,  
and patience to us all.  
Overcome disease with the power of your new life,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Benefice Prayer*

God who made everyone and who may be found in every place, bless our parishes and Benefice, prosper our attempts to be faithful to you and to draw others to you. Inspire us by the power of your Holy Spirit that we may be a caring people, the true community of the body of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord:

**thanks be to God.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all now and evermore. Amen.**