

Readings – First Sunday of Advent 03-12-2023

Sentence

‘Heaven and earth will pass away,’ says the Lord, ‘but my words will not pass away.’

Mark 13.31

Collect

Eternal God,
through long generations you prepared a way
for the coming of your Son,
and by your Spirit
you still bring light to illumine our paths:
renew us in faith and hope
that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts
and claim our love;
to whom be glory for ever. **Amen.**

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Our first reading is taken from Isaiah, Chapter 64 Beginning at Verse 1

Rip the heavens apart! Come down, LORD; make the mountains tremble. ² Be a spark that starts a fire causing water to boil.

Then your enemies will know who you are; all nations will tremble because you are nearby.

³ Your fearsome deeds have completely amazed us; even the mountains shake when you come down. ⁴ You are the only God ever seen or heard of who works miracles for his followers.

⁵ You help all who gladly obey and do what you want, but sin makes you angry. Only by your help can we ever be saved.

⁶ We are unfit to worship you; each of our good deeds is merely a filthy rag. We dry up like leaves; our sins are storm winds sweeping us away. ⁷ No one worships in your name or remains faithful. You have turned your back on us and let our sins melt

us away. ⁸ You, LORD, are our Father. We are nothing but clay, but you are the potter who molded us. ⁹ Don't be so furious or keep our sins in your thoughts forever! Remember that all of us are your people.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 80: 1-7, 17-19

Our Psalm today comes from Psalm 80. I will read one verse, and I invite you to respond with the next verse,

¹ Shepherd of Israel, you lead the descendants of Joseph, and you sit on your throne above the winged creatures. Listen to our prayer and let your light shine

² **For the tribes of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh. Save us by your power.**

³ Our God, make us strong again! Smile on us and save us.

⁴ **LORD God All-Powerful, how much longer will the prayers of your people make you angry?**

⁵ You gave us tears for food, and you made us drink them by the bowlful.

⁶ **Because of you, our enemies who live nearby laugh and joke about us.**

⁷ Our God, make us strong again! Smile on us and save us.

¹⁷ **But help the one who sits at your right side, the one you raised to be your very own.**

¹⁸ Then we will never turn away. Put new life into us, and we will worship you.

¹⁹ **LORD God All-Powerful, make us strong again! Smile on us and save us.**

1 Corinthian 1: 1-9

Our second reading is taken from 1 Corinthians, Chapter 1, beginning at Verse 1

From Paul, chosen by God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from Sosthenes, who is also a follower.

² To God's church in Corinth. Christ Jesus chose you to be his very own people, and you worship in his name, as we and all others do who call him Lord.

³ My prayer is that God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ will be kind to you and will bless you with peace!

⁴ I never stop thanking my God for treating you with undeserved grace by giving you Christ Jesus, ⁵ who helps you speak and understand so well. ⁶ Now you are certain that everything we told you about our Lord Christ Jesus is true. ⁷ You are not missing out on any blessings, as you wait for him to return. ⁸ And until the day Christ does return, he will keep you completely innocent. ⁹ God can be trusted, and he chose you to be partners with his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Mark 13:24-37

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark,
Chapter 13, beginning at Verse 24,

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ In those days, right after this time of suffering, “The sun will become dark, and the moon will no longer shine. ²⁵ The stars will fall, and the powers in the sky will be shaken.”

²⁶ Then the Son of Man will be seen coming in the clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ He will send his angels to gather his chosen ones from all over the earth.

²⁸ Learn a lesson from a fig tree. When its branches sprout and start putting out leaves, you know summer is near. ²⁹ So when you see all these things happening, you will know that the time has almost come. ³⁰ You can be sure that some of the people of this generation will still be alive when all this happens. ³¹ The sky and the earth will not last forever, but my words will.

³² No one knows the day or the time. The angels in heaven don't know, and the Son himself doesn't know. Only the Father knows. ³³ So watch out and be ready! You don't know when the

time will come. ³⁴ It is like what happens when a man goes away for a while and places his servants in charge of everything. He tells each of them what to do, and he orders the guard to keep alert. ³⁵ So be alert! You don't know when the master of the house will come back. It could be in the evening or at midnight or before dawn or in the morning. ³⁶ But if he comes suddenly, don't let him find you asleep. ³⁷ I tell everyone just what I have told you. Be alert!

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.