

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

27TH NOVEMBER, 2016

First Reading

Isaiah 2.1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the Lord 's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord , to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord !

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

¹ I was glad when they said to me:
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'
² And now our feet are standing:
within your gates, O Jerusalem;
³ Jerusalem which is built as a city:
where the pilgrims gather in unity.
⁴ There the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord:
as he commanded Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
⁵ There are set thrones of judgement:
the thrones of the house of David.
⁶ O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
may those who love you prosper.
⁷ Peace be within your walls:
and prosperity in your palaces.
⁸ For the sake of my kindred and companions:
I will pray that peace be with you.
⁹ For the sake of the house of the Lord our God:
I will seek for your good.

Second Reading

Romans 13.9-14

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

⁹ The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.
¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.

For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy.

¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel

Matthew 24.36-44

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

³⁶ 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not

have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we walk in his paths.

Isaiah 2.3

Prayer of the day

Faithful God,
whose promises stand unshaken through all
generations;
renew us in hope,
that we may be awake and alert
watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ,
our Judge and Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Supplementary readings

Isaiah 2.10-19; 4.2-6 Psalm 11 Matthew 24.45-51

Prayer Response

Lord, come down,

Come in, come among us.