

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

26th NOVEMBER 2017

First Reading

Isaiah 64.1-9

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

64 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

2 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!

3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

4 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.

5 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.

6 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.

7 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.

8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19

- 1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock:
 You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
- 2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh:
 Stir up your might, and come to save us!
- 3 Restore us, O God:
 let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts:
 how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears:
 and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- 6 You make us the scorn of our neighbours:
 our enemies laugh among themselves.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts:
 let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- 17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand:
 the one whom you made strong for yourself.
- 18 Then we will never turn back from you:
 give us life, and we will call on your name.
- 19 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:
 let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel

Mark 13.24-37

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ “But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ “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. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only

the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ 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, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

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

Mark 13.31

Prayer of the day

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.**

Supplementary Readings

Isaiah 1.1-9

Psalm 12

Luke 12.35-48

Prayer Response

Lord, stir up your strength
and come among us.