

Northampton Diocese Liturgy Commission

PRIVATE PRAYER in the Year of the Word

First Sunday of Advent – Year B

29 November 2020

*As we come to pray in church we can unite ourselves with the whole Church of God by reflecting and praying the scriptures that will be prayed and proclaimed where Mass is celebrated across the world. Take time after each scripture to think and reflect what it means as we begin Advent
The opening and thanksgiving psalms are those for the entry and communion processions of the Mass.*

The Advent Wreath – at home as well as in church

Lord our God, we praise you for your son Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Saviour of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay.

A Psalm to begin our prayer *Isaiah 30, Psalm 24*

*To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.*

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth and teach me;
for you are God my saviour.

In you I hope all the day long because of your goodness, O lord.
Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray.
He guides the humble in the right path.
He teaches his way to the poor.

Take a moment to ask God's forgiveness and strength

Prayer of the Sunday (Collect)

Grant your faithful, we pray almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.

The WORD of GOD

First Reading *Isaiah 63,16b-17; 64,1,3b-8*

Lord that you would tear the heavens open and come down.
You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of our like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you for you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

*God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Second Reading *First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1,3-9*

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord
May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel

Mark 13:33-37

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come
Jesus said to his disciple: "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!"

Pray for

- *the Church to support her people on the Advent journey*
- *the World, for all who have no home, the hungry, the unemployed, for all who feel life has no meaning*
- *our own Parish and its needs at this time, especially those who find this time of year unsettling and worrying*
- *for an end to the pandemic and all who care for the sick and dying, and all who are working to find a vaccine*
- *all who have died*
- *for your own intentions*

A prayer for the pandemic

Merciful God, come to the help of your people. Be our shelter in this time of peril and strengthen the bonds of our community. Bring healing to all who suffer the ravages of disease and assist those whose skill and art can put an end to this affliction.

Thanksgiving Psalm

Baruch 4/5. Psalm 84

*Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.*

I will hear what the Lord has to say, a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people and his friends
and those who turn to him in their hearts.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met ;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will makes us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

Acknowledgements

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