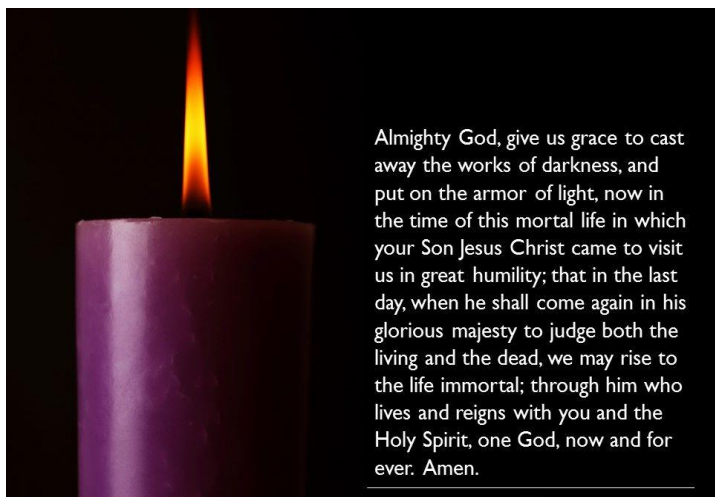


# God's Word for this Week

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
Advent Sunday



*The Collect for the Day – This Collect begins on Advent Sunday and is read with the Sunday Collect every Sunday until Christmas Day.*



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

## This Week's Readings:

### The Old Testament

Listen to the honesty of communication with God through the writings of the Prophet Isaiah. This provides us with a glimpse of how people communicated with God during the time when this book was written c. 740-700 b.c with some later additions added -Chapters 24-27;33-39.



### The Epistle

This piece from the Letter to the Corinthians reinforces its readers intent as they wait for Christ to reveal himself to them; assuring them that they have already been provided with every necessary spiritual gift needed and with strength that comes from Christ himself.

### The Gospel Reading

The Gospel reading reminds us to remain alert for the signs of Christ's coming. How does this also speak into our present-day lives and into each moment. Are we aware of the presence of the Christ in all we say and do?



# The Old Testament Reading

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence 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! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God beside you, who works for those who wait for him. 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. 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. There is no one who calls 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. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

## The Epistle Reading

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, <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.

*We have been given all that we need!*

# The Gospel Reading

## Mark 13: 24-37

24 'But 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.

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. <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.

32 '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.'

*How vigilant are we when it comes to God?  
How conscious of his presence as we go about our day?*

# Let's Pray

*God our Father,*

You have given us the gift of Christ your Son to reveal your heart to humankind.

As we enter this Season of Advent,  
open our hearts and minds to receive anew the Christ Child;  
make us watchful for his light in all our relationships and interactions.

Take from our hearts the regrets of the past  
and create within us new light, new hope  
and new understanding of your love.

*Amen.*