



Prayers and Readings for Holy Communion Services

Registered Charity 1132975

22 November 2020

Christ the King

The Collect – (priest only)

Eternal Father,

whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:

keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;

who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

Ezekiel 34.11-16,

¹¹Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Gospel

Matthew 25.31-40

Jesus said: ³¹When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Post communion – (priest only)

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Prayers and Readings for Holy Communion Services

Registered Charity 1132975

29 November 2020

First Sunday of Advent

The Collect – (priest only)

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

Amen

First Reading

Isaiah 64.1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence –
²as 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!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From 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.
⁵You 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.
⁶We 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.
⁷There 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.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and

you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Gospel

Mark 13.24-37

Jesus said: ²⁴In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. ²⁷Then 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.

²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It 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. ³⁵Therefore, 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, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

Post communion – (priest only)

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Prayers and Readings for Holy Communion Services

Registered Charity 1132975

06 December 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

The Collect – (priest only)

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

First Reading

Isaiah 40.1-5

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.
³A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

Gospel

Mark 1.1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"',
⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Post communion – (priest only)

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity
of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may
be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

|



Prayers and Readings for Holy Communion Services

Registered Charity 1132975

13 December 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

The Collect– (priest only)

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom
of the just, that at your second coming to judge the
world we may be found an acceptable people in your
sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

Isaiah 61.1-4

The servant of the Lord said:

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the
LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good
news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the
prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day
of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them
a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of
mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of
the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up
the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined
cities, the devastations of many generations.

Gospel

John 1.6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was
John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so
that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not
the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent
priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are
you?' ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed,
'I am not the Messiah.' ²¹And they asked him, 'What
then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the
prophet?' He answered, 'No.' ²²Then they said to him,
'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who
sent us. What do you say about yourself?' ²³He said,
'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet
Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They
asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are
neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' ²⁶John
answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you
stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is
coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of
his sandal.' ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the
Jordan where John was baptizing.

Post communion – (priest only)

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.



Prayers and Readings for Holy Communion Services

Registered Charity 1132975

20 December 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Collect – (priest only)

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

2 Samuel 7.1-11,16

¹Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' ³Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.

⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' ⁸Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to

you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Gospel

Luke 1.26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Post communion – (priest only)

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please note that the readings for the Sunday after Christmas are overleaf so don't throw this away just yet. Christmas readings will be in the next pack



Prayers and Readings for Holy Communion Services

Registered Charity 1132975

27 December 2020

St John the Apostle

The Collect – (priest only)

Merciful Lord,
cast your bright beams of light upon the Church:
that, being enlightened by the teaching
of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John,
we may so walk in the light of your truth
that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

Exodus 33.7-11a

⁷Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. ⁸Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. ⁹When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. ¹⁰When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tents. ¹¹ Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

John 21.19b-25

¹⁹After this Jesus said to Peter, 'Follow me.'

²⁰Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?' ²¹ When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, 'Lord, what about him?' ²² Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!' ²³ So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did

not say to him that he would not die, but, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?'

²⁴This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. ²⁵But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Post communion – (priest only)

Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that the Word made flesh
proclaimed by your apostle John
may, by the celebration of these holy mysteries,
ever abide and live within us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Copyright acknowledgement (where not already indicated above):

Some material included in this service is copyright: © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA
Various collects © Oxford University Press: The Book of Common Worship of the Church of South India
Various Collects © The Crown/Cambridge University Press: The Book of Common Prayer (1662)

Post Communion (John) © 1973 ICEL: Roman Missal (English Translation)