



# Collects and Readings for Holy Communion Services

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING THIS WITH YOU EACH WEEK IF ATTENDING CHURCH

Registered Charity 1132975

## 7 November 2021

### Third Sunday before Advent

#### The Collect

Almighty Father,  
whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the King of all:  
govern the hearts and minds of those in  
authority, and bring the families of the  
nations, divided and torn apart by the  
ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and  
gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

#### First Reading

*Jonah 3.1-5,10*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to Jonah,  
saying, <sup>2</sup>'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great  
city, and proclaim to it the message that I  
tell you.' <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to  
Nineveh, according to the word of the  
LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly  
large city, a three days' walk across.

<sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a  
day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days  
more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!'

<sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed  
God; they proclaimed a fast, and  
everyone, great and small, put on  
sackcloth. <sup>10</sup>When God saw what they  
did, how they turned from their evil  
ways, God changed his mind about the  
calamity that he had said he would bring  
upon them; and he did not do it.

#### Gospel

*Mark 1.14-20*

<sup>14</sup>After John was arrested, Jesus came to  
Galilee, proclaiming the good news of  
God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, 'The time is fulfilled,  
and the kingdom of God has come near;  
repent, and believe in the good news.'

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee,  
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew  
casting a net into the lake – for they were  
fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them,  
'Follow me and I will make you fish for  
people.' <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their  
nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a  
little farther, he saw James son of  
Zebedee and his brother John, who were  
in their boat mending the nets.

<sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left  
their father Zebedee in the boat with the  
hired men, and followed him.

#### Post communion

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ  
proclaimed the kingdom and restored the  
broken to wholeness of life:  
look with compassion on the anguish of the  
world, and by your healing power make whole  
both people and nations; through our Lord and  
Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

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## Collects and Readings for Holy Communion Services

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING THIS WITH YOU EACH WEEK IF ATTENDING CHURCH

Registered Charity 1132975

**14 November 2021**

**Second Sunday before Advent**

**Remembrance Sunday**

### **The Collect**

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:

grant that we, having this hope,  
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;  
that when he shall appear in power and great  
glory we may be made like him in his eternal  
and glorious kingdom;  
where he is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### **First Reading** *Daniel 12.1-3*

In the third year of King Cyrus a word was revealed to Daniel. <sup>1</sup>'At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. <sup>2</sup>Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup>Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.'

### **Gospel** *Mark 13.1-8*

<sup>1</sup>As He came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' <sup>2</sup>Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

<sup>3</sup>When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup>'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' <sup>5</sup>Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup>Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup>When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.'

### **Post communion**

Gracious Lord,  
in this holy sacrament  
you give substance to our hope:  
bring us at the last  
to that fullness of life for which we long;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**



# Collects and Readings for Holy Communion Services

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Registered Charity 1132975

## 21 November 2021

### Christ the King

#### The Collect

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. **Amen**

#### First Reading *Revelation 1.4b-8*

<sup>4</sup>Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen. <sup>8</sup>'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

#### Gospel *John 18.33-37*

<sup>33</sup>Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' <sup>35</sup>Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' <sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' <sup>37</sup>Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

#### Post communion

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.

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## Collects and Readings for Holy Communion Services

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### 28 November 2021

### First Sunday of Advent

#### The Collect

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 | *Thessalonians 3.9-13*

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

#### Gospel | *Luke 21.25-36*

Jesus said, <sup>25</sup>‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the

roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’ <sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

#### Post communion

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.



## Collects and Readings for Holy Communion Services

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### 5 December 2021

### Second Sunday of Advent

#### The Collect

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.

**Amen**

#### First Reading *Philippians 1.3-11*

My brothers and sisters, <sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may

be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

#### Gospel *Luke 3.1-6*

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

#### Post communion

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. **Amen**



# Collects and Readings for Holy Communion Services

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**12 December 2021**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

## The Collect

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. **Amen**

## First Reading *Philippians 4.4-7*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,  
Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to  
everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry  
about anything, but in everything by prayer  
and supplication with thanksgiving let your  
requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the  
peace of God, which surpasses all  
understanding, will guard your hearts and  
your minds in Christ Jesus.

## Gospel *Luke 3.7-18*

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to  
be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers!  
Who warned you to flee from the wrath to  
come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance.  
Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We  
have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell  
you, God is able from these stones to raise  
up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe  
is lying at the root of the trees; every tree

therefore that does not bear good fruit is  
cut down and thrown into the fire.'

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, 'What then  
should we do?' <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them,  
'Whoever has two coats must share with  
anyone who has none; and whoever has  
food must do likewise.' <sup>12</sup>Even tax-collectors  
came to be baptized, and they asked him,  
'Teacher, what should we do?' <sup>13</sup>He said to  
them, 'Collect no more than the amount  
prescribed for you.' <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked  
him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said  
to them, 'Do not extort money from  
anyone by threats or false accusation, and  
be satisfied with your wages.' <sup>15</sup>As the  
people were filled with expectation, and all  
were questioning in their hearts concerning  
John, whether he might be the Messiah,  
<sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, 'I  
baptize you with water; but one who is  
more powerful than I is coming; I am not  
worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He  
will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.  
<sup>17</sup>His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear  
his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat  
into his granary; but the chaff he will burn  
with unquenchable fire.' <sup>18</sup>So, with many  
other exhortations, he proclaimed the good  
news to the people.

## Post communion

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. **Amen**



**Collects and Readings for Holy Communion Services**  
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**19 December 2021**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**The Collect**

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. **Amen**

**First Reading** *Micah 5.2-5a*

The LORD says to his people:  
<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin  
is from of old, from ancient days.  
<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the  
time when she who is in labour has  
brought forth; then the rest of his  
kindred shall return to the people of  
Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his  
flock in the strength of the LORD, in the  
majesty of the name of the LORD his  
God. And they shall live secure, for now  
he shall be great to the ends of the earth;  
<sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

**Gospel** *Luke 1.39-45*

In those days Mary set out and went  
with haste to a Judean town in the hill  
country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house  
of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.  
<sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,  
the child leapt in her womb. And  
Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit  
<sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed  
are you among women, and blessed is the  
fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this  
happened to me, that the mother of my  
Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I  
heard the sound of your greeting, the  
child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup>And  
blessed is she who believed that there  
would be a fulfilment of what was spoken  
to her by the Lord.'

**Post communion**

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. **Amen**



## Collects and Readings for Holy Communion Services

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Registered Charity 1132975

### 26 December 2021

### St Stephen

#### The Collect

Gracious Father, who gave the first martyr Stephen grace to pray for those who took up stones against him: grant that in all our sufferings for the truth we may learn to love even our enemies and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt, looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

#### First Reading *Acts 7.51-60*

Stephen said to the high priest and the council: <sup>51</sup> 'You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. <sup>52</sup> Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. <sup>53</sup> You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.'

<sup>54</sup> When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. <sup>55</sup> Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' <sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup> Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet

of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

#### Gospel *Matthew 23:34-39*

Jesus said, "I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, <sup>35</sup> so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. <sup>36</sup> Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation.

<sup>37</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>38</sup> See, your house is left to you, desolate. <sup>39</sup> For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

#### Post communion

Merciful Lord, we thank you for the signs of your mercy revealed in birth and death: save us by the coming of your Son, and give us joy in honouring Stephen, first martyr of the new Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**