



Prayers and Readings for Holy Communion Services

Registered Charity 1132975

11 October 2020

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

The Collect - (priest only)

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith that,
forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that
which is before,
we may run the way of your commandments and win
the crown of everlasting joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 25.1-9

¹O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise
your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans
formed of old, faithful and sure.
²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a
ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never
be rebuilt.
³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of
ruthless nations will fear you.
⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the
needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and
a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless
was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵the noise of aliens like heat
in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of
clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.
⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all
peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured
wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured
wines strained clear.
⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is
cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all
nations; ⁸he will swallow up death for ever. Then the
Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and
the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the
earth, for the LORD has spoken.
⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have
waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the
LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and
rejoice in his salvation.

Gospel

Matthew 22.1-14

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying:
²'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king
who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his
slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding
banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other
slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I
have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves
have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to
the wedding banquet." ⁵But they made light of it and
went away, one to his farm, another to his business,
⁶while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and
killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops,
destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.
⁸Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but
those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the
main streets, and invite everyone you find to the
wedding banquet." ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the
streets and gathered all whom they found, both good
and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.
¹¹But when the king came in to see the guests, he
noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding
robe, ¹²and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in
here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless.
¹³Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand
and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹⁴For many
are called, but few are chosen.'

Post communion - (priest only)

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred
feast:
for here we receive you,
here the memory of your passion is renewed,
here our minds are filled with grace,
and here a pledge of future glory is given,
when we shall feast at that table where you reign
with all your saints for ever.
Amen.



Prayers and Readings for Holy Communion Services

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18 October 2020

Luke the Evangelist

The Collect - (priest only)

Almighty God,
you called Luke the physician,
whose praise is in the gospel,
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:
by the grace of the Spirit
and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,
give your Church the same love and power to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 35.3-6

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and
streams in the desert.

Gospel

Luke 10.1-9

¹The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

Post communion - (priest only)

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:
by the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Prayers and Readings for Holy Communion Services

Registered Charity 1132975

25 October 2020

Last Sunday after Trinity

The Collect - (priest only)

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our
learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that,
through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of
everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

First Reading

Leviticus 19.1-2,15-18

¹The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the LORD.

¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the LORD.

Gospel

Matthew 22.34-46

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' ³⁷He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.' ⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.' ⁴³He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴"The Lord said to my Lord,
'Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies
under your feet'"?
⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?
⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Post communion - (priest only)

God of all grace,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living
bread;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.



Prayers and Readings for Holy Communion Services

Registered Charity 1132975

1 November 2020

All Saints' Day

The Collect - (priest only)

Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect in one communion
and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ
our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all
virtuous and godly living that we may come to those
inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who
truly love you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
Amen.

First Reading

Revelation 7.9-17

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that
no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes
and peoples and languages, standing before the throne
and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm
branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice,
saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on
the throne, and to the Lamb!'

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around
the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on
their faces before the throne and worshipped God,

¹²singing,

'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honour
and power and might
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are
these, robed in white, and where have they come from?'

¹⁴I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then
he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of
the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and
made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and
worship him day and night within his temple, and the
one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun

will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;
¹⁷for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their
shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water
of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their
eyes.'

Gospel

Matthew 5.1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a
mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,
and he began to teach them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of
righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you
and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in
heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the
prophets who were before you.'

Post communion - (priest only)

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good
things: may we who have shared at this table as
strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with
all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your
kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Prayers and Readings for Holy Communion Services

Registered Charity 1132975

8 November 2020

Third Sunday before Advent

The Collect - (priest only)

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

Wisdom of Solomon 6.12-16

¹²Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her.

¹³She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.

¹⁴One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate.

¹⁵To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,

¹⁶because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

Gospel

Matthew 25.1-13

Jesus said, ¹'The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." ⁹But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." ¹²But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

Post communion - (priest only)

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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Prayers and Readings for Holy Communion Services

Registered Charity 1132975

15 November 2020

Second Sunday before Advent

The Collect - (priest only)

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 *Zephaniah 1.7,12-18*

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.' ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. ¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Gospel *Matthew 25.14-30*

Jesus said, ¹⁴'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to

another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." ²¹His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." ²³His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." ²⁶But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Post communion - (priest only)

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.**