

## **Sunday 30 November – First Sunday of Advent**

### **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.

### **First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

In the last days  
the mountain of the LORD'S temple will be established  
as chief among the mountains;  
it will be raised above the hills,  
and all nations will stream to it.

Many peoples will come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob.  
He will teach us his ways,  
so that we may walk in his paths."  
The law will go out from Zion,  
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
He will judge between the nations  
and will settle disputes for many peoples.  
They will beat their swords into ploughshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not take up sword against nation,

nor will they train for war any more.  
Come, O house of Jacob,  
let us walk in the light of the LORD.”

## **Psalm 122**

I was glad when they said to me, ♦  
‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’

And now our feet are standing ♦  
within your gates, O Jerusalem;

Jerusalem, built as a city ♦  
that is at unity in itself.

Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, ♦  
as is decreed for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

For there are set the thrones of judgement, ♦  
the thrones of the house of David. **R**

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ♦  
‘May they prosper who love you.

‘Peace be within your walls ♦  
and tranquillity within your palaces.’

For my kindred and companions’ sake, ♦  
I will pray that peace be with you.

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, ♦  
I will seek to do you good.

## **Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

<sup>11</sup>Brothers and sisters, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live

honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

### **Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44**

Jesus said: “No-one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”