

## Advent 1 Sunday November 28

### Collect

Almighty God,  
as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the  
light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

### Psalm 25:1-10

<sup>1</sup>To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust;  
let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>1</sup> Let none who look to you be put to shame,  
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.

<sup>3</sup> Make me to know your ways, O Lord,  
and teach me your paths.

<sup>4</sup> **Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you have I hoped all the day long.**

<sup>5</sup> Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.

<sup>6</sup> **Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, but think  
on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.**

<sup>7</sup> Gracious and upright is the Lord;  
therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.

<sup>8</sup> **He will guide the humble in doing right  
and teach his way to the lowly.**

<sup>9</sup> All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

<sup>10</sup> **For your name's sake, O Lord,  
be merciful to my sin, for it is great.**

### Reading: Luke 21:25-36

<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 does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> 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.'

## Advent 2 Sunday December 5

### Collect

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again  
as judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God.

### Benedictus

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who has come to his people and set them free.  
2 **He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of his servant David.**  
3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us,  
4 **To show mercy to our ancestors,  
and to remember his holy covenant.**  
5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
6 **Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.**  
7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
8 **To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.**  
9 In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
10 **To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

### Reading: 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.”

## Advent 3 Sunday December 12

### Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Psalm 146:4-10

4 Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

**5 Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them;  
who keeps his promise for ever;**

6 Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong  
and bread to those who hunger.

**7 The Lord looses those that are bound;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;**

8 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous;

**9 The Lord watches over the stranger in the land;  
he upholds the orphan and widow;  
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.**

10 The Lord shall reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Alleluia.

### Reading: 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.

## Advent 4 Sunday December 19

### Collect

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.

### Magnificat

<sup>46</sup> Mary said: 'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

### Luke 1: 46b-55

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<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
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Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
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