

## Advent 1 Sunday November 27

### 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 121

1 I was glad when they said to me,  
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'

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

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

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

5 For there are set the thrones of judgement,  
the thrones of the house of David.

**6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
'May they prosper who love you.**

7 'Peace be within your walls  
and tranquillity within your palaces.'

**8 For my kindred and companions' sake,  
I will pray that peace be with you.**

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

**Reading:** Matthew 24:36-44

<sup>36</sup> 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of  
heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah  
were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in those days

before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in  
marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing  
until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming  
of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and  
one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will  
be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake therefore, for you do not  
know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the  
owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was  
coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house  
be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man  
is coming at an unexpected hour.

## Advent 2 Sunday December 4

### 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.

### Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

1 Give the king your judgements, O God,  
and your righteousness to the son of a king.

**2 Then shall he judge your people righteously  
and your poor with justice.**

3 May the mountains bring forth peace,  
and the little hills righteousness for the people.

**4 May he defend the poor among the people,  
deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.**

5 May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

**6 May he come down like rain upon the mown grass,**

like the showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall righteousness flourish,  
and abundance of peace

till the moon shall be no more.

**18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wonderful things.**

19 And blessed be his glorious name for ever.

May all the earth be filled with his glory.

Amen. Amen.

**Reading: Matthew 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight."

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?' <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume 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>10</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>11</sup>'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

**Advent 3 Sunday December 11**

**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 146:5-10**

5 Blessed are those whose hope is in the Lord their God,  
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: Matthew 11:2-11**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?' <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."  
<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## **Advent 4 Sunday December 18**

### **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.

### **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you that led Joseph like a flock;  
**2 Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,  
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.**  
3 Stir up your mighty strength  
and come to our salvation.  
**4 Turn us again, O God;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**  
5 O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?  
**6 You feed them with the bread of tears;**

**you give them abundance of tears to drink.**

7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

**17 Let those who burnt it with fire, who cut it down,  
perish at the rebuke of your countenance.**

18 Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand,  
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.

**19 And so will we not go back from you;  
give us life, and we shall call upon your name.**

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel',  
which means, 'God is with us.' <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.