

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.

Amen.

FINAL HYMN: 'Praise to the God who Clears the Way'

Praise to the God who clears the way
Preparing room and space:
For power and pride will lose their sway
As peace comes in their place

Praise to the God who comes to judge
The truth of word and deed,
Who calls our minds and wills to change,
Rebuking wealth and greed.

Praise to the God who waits with us
For hope and joy to reign,
Who shares our suffering and our loss,
Embodied in our pain.

Praise to the God who comes to bring
Comfort to all who mourn.
The whole creation 'Glory' sings
As Christ the light is born.



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1st Sunday of Advent

1st December 2024

GATHERING HYMN: 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel' – (469)

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

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SECOND READING

I Thessalonians 3: 9—13

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

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 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. 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.

For the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL HYMN— 'God's World is Changing'

God's world is changing; where is it going?
Nations are raging; look at their fear!
Many are anxious, filled with foreboding;
We wait in faith, for God's reign is near.

"Look at the fig tree!" See what it's doing.
Look at the signs in heaven above.
God is at work here, building, renewing;
Some are afraid, but we know God's love.

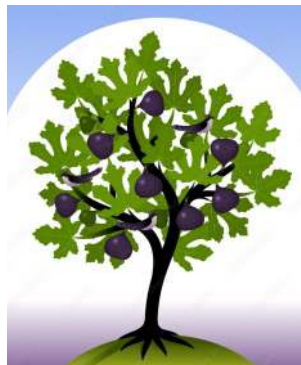
This world is drifting, filled with distraction!
Many are wandering; some fall away.
We wait in faith! We're ready for action.
We're on our guard to greet God's new day.

What should we do, Lord, while we are waiting?
Some just sit back while troubles increase.
Others respond by fighting and hating.
We hear your call to work for your peace.

We sing verse 5 after the Gospel Reading

Lord, may we use each day that we're given —
Helping the hungry, homeless and poor.
Then we'll be ready for what you're bringing
When Christ will come and reign evermore.

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GOSPEL

Luke 21: 25-36

'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. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

'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, 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE GIFTS: 'Longing for Light' - (401)'

COMMUNION HYMNS:

'Lord Jesus Think on Me' – (409)

'Thy Kingdom Come on Bended Knee' – (679)

'Purify My Heart' – (557)

