

## Fourth Sunday before Advent November 5

### Collect

God of glory,  
touch our lips with the fire of your Spirit,  
that we with all creation  
may rejoice to sing your praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Psalm 43

- 1 Give judgement for me, O God,  
and defend my cause against an ungodly people;  
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.
- 2 **For you are the God of my refuge;**  
why have you cast me from you,  
and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?
- 3 O send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me,  
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling,
- 4 **That I may go to the altar of God,**  
to the God of my joy and gladness;  
and on the lyre I will give thanks to you, O God my God.
- 5 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul,  
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 6 **O put your trust in God;**  
for I will yet give him thanks,  
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

### Reading: Matthew 24:1-14

<sup>1</sup> As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. <sup>2</sup> Then he asked them, 'You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.' <sup>3</sup> When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?' <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. <sup>5</sup> For

many will come in my name, saying, "I am the Messiah!" and they will lead many astray. <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: <sup>8</sup> all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs. <sup>9</sup> Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. <sup>10</sup> Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. <sup>12</sup> And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But anyone who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations; and then the end will come.

## Third Sunday before Advent November 12 (Remembrance Sunday)

### Collect

God, our refuge and strength,  
bring near the day when wars shall cease  
and poverty and pain shall end,  
that earth may know the peace of heaven  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Psalm 70

- 1 O God, make speed to save me;  
O Lord, make haste to help me.
- 2 **Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confusion;**  
let them be turned back and disgraced who wish me evil.
- 3 Let those who mock and deride me  
turn back because of their shame.
- 4 **But let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;**  
let those who love your salvation say always, 'Great is the Lord!'
- 5 As for me, I am poor and needy;

come to me quickly, O God.

**6 You are my help and my deliverer;  
O Lord, do not delay.**

**Reading:** Matthew 25:1-13

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

## Second Sunday before Advent, November 19

### Collect

Heavenly Lord,  
you long for the world's salvation:  
stir us from apathy,  
restrain us from excess  
and revive in us new hope  
that all creation will one day be healed  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Psalm 90:1-8**

1 Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.  
2 Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the earth and the world were formed,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.  
3 You turn us back to dust and say:  
'Turn back, O children of earth.'  
4 For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday,  
which passes like a watch in the night.  
5 You sweep them away like a dream;  
they fade away suddenly like the grass.  
6 In the morning it is green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.  
7 For we consume away in your displeasure;  
we are afraid at your wrathful indignation.  
8 You have set our misdeeds before you  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

**Reading:** Matthew 25:14-30

<sup>14</sup> 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup> to one he gave five talents,<sup>[f]</sup> to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup> The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup> In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup> But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup> After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> Then 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." <sup>21</sup> His 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." <sup>22</sup> And 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.” <sup>23</sup> His 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.” <sup>24</sup> Then 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; <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” <sup>26</sup> But 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? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For 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. <sup>30</sup> As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

## Sunday before Advent, November 26

### Collect

God the Father,  
help us to hear the call of Christ the King  
and to follow in his service,  
whose kingdom has no end;  
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, one glory.

### Psalm 95:1-7

- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving  
and be glad in him with psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a great God  
and a great king above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth  
and the heights of the mountains are his also.

- 5 The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands have moulded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us worship and bow down  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
- 7 For he is our God;  
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

### Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

<sup>31</sup> ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, <sup>[g]</sup> you did it to me.” <sup>41</sup> Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’