

Sunday 19th November 2023

Second Sunday before Advent

Reading 1: **1 Thessalonians 5: 1 - 11**

Gospel: **Matthew 25: 14 - 30**

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with us all.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us be glad in it.

Psalm: 90: 1 - 12

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place
in all generations.

² Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³ You turn us back to dust,
and say, 'Turn back, you mortals.'

⁴ For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.

⁵ You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;

⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

⁷ For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

⁸ You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰ The days of our life are seventy years,
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due to you.

¹² So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

Song: (*click link*) Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me <https://youtu.be/zundjUFazfq>

Invitation to Confession

What God has prepared for those who love Him,
He has revealed to us through the Spirit;
for the Spirit searches everything.
Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord
who has prepared good things for those who love Him.

Confession:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
through our own fault
in thought, and word, and deed
and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry,
and repent of all our sins.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Absolution:

May Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading1: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴ But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷ for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Gospel: Matthew 25: 31 - end

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴ 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ 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." ²¹ 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." ²² 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." ²³ 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." ²⁴ 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; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."

This is the gospel of the lord. Praise to you O Christ.

Talk:

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

The Creed

Though He was divine,
He did not cling to equality with God,
But made Himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
He was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
And was obedient to death,
Even the death of a cross.
Therefore God has raised Him on high,
And given Him the name above every name:
That at the name of Jesus
Every knee should bow,
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

(Please add in names and circumstances known to you in the appropriate place)

Our loving, Heavenly Father, we want to thank you for the world that you have created. Help us to be aware of our responsibility to look after that which you have made.
Lord in your mercy;
hear our prayer.

As we pray for our world, so we pray for those that make decisions on our behalf; we pray for the world leaders to make right choices; help them to make joint decisions for the wellbeing of all people.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In our own country we pray for our King and for his government, we ask, Lord, for your wisdom to reign in the hearts of our sovereign and politicians, that they may be humble to advice and move us in measured ways that will dispel fear and promote love and unity.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As the church of England meets in synod, so we pray for the church leaders, our Archbishops and Bishops, as they meet to discuss the ways that churches can work together in communion with each other. Give them, our church leaders and all church leaders, discernment gifts to bring the church together to worship you. Unite us Lord in praise of who you are.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for our local area; all those churches on the Dengie peninsula. Draw people we pray, to worship you our living God, we ask that your Holy Spirit moves the hearts of the residents of this deanery and that we will see many lives changed for your glory.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We bring before you today, those who are on our hearts for prayer, and those that we do not know, yet you know. Bring your healing, both physically and spiritually, that they may know the goodness of our God.

We pray especially for

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

And we pray for each other, that we will grow in knowledge and love of you, our heavenly father.

Merciful Father,
accept the prayers of your people
for the sake of your Son
our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

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. Amen

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom the power and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen.

*Usually, at this point in the service, we take up our offering;
let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we offer to God
and give Him thanks.*

Song: (click link) How Great is Our God <https://youtu.be/d5rjyDPWAdk>

Blessing:

The Lord bless us and watch over us,
The Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious to us
The Lord look kindly upon us and give us peace.....

...and the blessing of God almighty
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with us, and all those whom we love,
this day and always. Amen

*As we come to the end of this service we can fellowship with each other in Spirit, with tea, coffee
and biscuits, and continuing to pray for each other.*

Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.