

# Morning Worship Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

## Advent Sunday

**Reading 1:** 1 Corinthians 1: 3 - 9

**Gospel:** Mark 13: 24 - end

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 rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 8: 1 – 8

<sup>1</sup> Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth  
<sup>2</sup> before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Stir up your might,  
and come to save us!  
<sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.  
<sup>4</sup> O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?  
<sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears,  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.  
<sup>6</sup> You make us the scorn<sup>[a]</sup> of our neighbours;  
our enemies laugh among themselves.  
<sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.  
<sup>8</sup> You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.

**Song:** (click link) *You are the King of Glory* <https://youtu.be/6C0-dkK8cnQ>

**Invitation  
to  
Confession:** When the Lord comes, he will bring to light  
the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**Confession:** Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We have wounded your love  
and marred your image in us.  
We are sorry and ashamed  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light.  
Amen.

**Absolution:** Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Reading1: 1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9**

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— <sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

**Gospel: Mark 13 : 24 - 37      The Coming of the Son of Man**

<sup>24</sup>‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

**The Lesson of the Fig Tree**

<sup>28</sup>‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you

know that he<sup>[a]</sup> is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

### **The Necessity for Watchfulness**

<sup>32</sup> 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Beware, keep alert;<sup>[b]</sup> for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup> Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup> or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

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

**Prayer:**                      As we listen to your word today Lord, illumine those things that you want to teach us, and give us courage to live by your words.    Amen.

**Talk:**                      (click link)      <https://youtu.be/VpYr-o5T9s>

*Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

### **The Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day He rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Holy catholic Church  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.    Amen.

### **Prayers of Intercession:**

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

Watchful at all times,  
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence

before our Maker and Redeemer.  
That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations  
his sceptre of righteousness,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures  
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may bind up the brokenhearted,  
restore the sick  
and raise up all who have fallen,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That the light of God's coming may dawn  
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That, with all the saints in light,  
we may shine forth as lights for the world,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray  
to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:  
*Silence is kept.*  
Almighty God,  
as your blessed Son Jesus Christ  
first came to seek and to save the lost;  
so may he come again to find in us  
the completion of his redeeming work;  
for he is now alive  
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**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. 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)    Look to the Skies <https://youtu.be/Ke3EXG1828E>

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
He has given us new life and a living hope.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessing:**        May God keep us in all our days,  
                      May Christ shield us in all our ways.  
                      May the Holy Spirit bring us healing and peace.  
                      May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from us  
                      and pour upon us His blessing and light.....  
                      ...and the blessing of God almighty  
                      Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
                      be with us, and all and those whom we love,  
                      this day and always.        Amen

**Video:**            Heaven has come to us    <https://youtu.be/5urwiAkk1h8>

*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.*