

Psalms, readings and collect

Date: 30th November – Advent Sunday A

Obviously on Sundays, people will use the Act of Spiritual Communion; but for those who wish to say an evening office, provision is included here.

Office

Psalm:

(44) WE have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us : what thou hast done in their time of old;

2 How thou hast driven out the heathen with thy hand, and planted them in : how thou hast destroyed the nations and cast them out.

3 For they gat not the land in possession through their own sword : neither was it their own arm that helped them;

4 But thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance : because thou hadst a favour unto them.

5 Thou art my King, O God : send help unto Jacob.

6 Through thee will we overthrow our enemies : and in thy Name will we tread them under, that rise up against us.

7 For I will not trust in my bow : it is not my sword that shall help me;

8 But it is thou that savest us from our enemies : and putttest them to confusion that hate us.

9 We make our boast of God all day long : and will praise thy Name for ever.

10 But now thou art far off, and putttest us to confusion : and goest not forth with our armies.

11 Thou makest us to turn our backs upon our enemies : so that they which hate us spoil our goods.

12 Thou lettest us be eaten up like sheep : and hast scattered us among the heathen.

13 Thou sellest thy people for nought : and takest no money for them.

14 Thou makest us to be rebuked of our neighbours : to be laughed to scorn, and had in derision of them that are round about us.

15 Thou makest us to be a by-word among the heathen : and that the people shake their heads at us.

16 My confusion is daily before me : and the shame of my face hath covered me;

17 For the voice of the slanderer and blasphemer: for the enemy and avenger.

18 And though all this be come upon us, yet do we not forget thee : nor behave ourselves frowardly in thy covenant.

19 Our heart is not turned back : neither our steps gone out of thy way;

20 No, not when thou hast smitten us into the place of dragons : and covered us with the shadow of death.

21 If we have forgotten the Name of our God, and holden up our hands to any strange god : shall not God search it out? for he knoweth the very secrets of the heart.

22 For thy sake also are we killed all the day long : and are counted as sheep appointed to be slain.

23 Up, Lord, why sleepest thou : awake, and be not absent from us for ever.

24 Wherefore hidest thou thy face : and forgettest our misery and trouble?

25 For our soul is brought low, even unto the dust : our belly cleaveth unto the ground.
26 Arise, and help us : and deliver us for thy mercy's sake.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Reading:

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Collect of the day:

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day when He shall come again in His glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, throughout all ages world without end. Amen.

Act of Spiritual Communion

Collect:

God of majesty and power, amid the clamour of our violence Your Word resounds; upon a world made dark by sin the Sun of Justice casts His dawning rays. Keep Your household watchful and aware of the hour in which we live. Hasten the advent of that day when the sounds of war will be for ever stilled, the darkness of evil scattered and all Your children gathered into one. We ask this through Him, Whose coming is certain, Whose day draws near; Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is alive and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God, throughout all ages world without end. Amen.

First Reading:

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Church in Rome.

You know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and

licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Psalm:

I was glad when they said to me, ♦ ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’
And now our feet are standing ♦ within your gates, O Jerusalem;
Jerusalem, built as a city ♦ that is at unity in itself.
Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, ♦ as is decreed for Israel, to give thanks
to the name of the Lord.
For there are set the thrones of judgement, ♦ the thrones of the house of David.
O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ♦ ‘May they prosper who love you.
‘Peace be within your walls ♦ and tranquillity within your palaces.’
For my kindred and companions’ sake, ♦ I will pray that peace be with you.
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, ♦ I will seek to do you good.

Gospel:

A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Jesus said to His disciples, "As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they did not know until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of man. Then two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one is taken and one is left. Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.