Sunday 8 November 2026 Third Sunday before Advent

COLLECT

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those
in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages
of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle
rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Either **Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16**

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those
who love her, and is found by those
who seek her. She hastens to make
herself known to those who desire
her. One who rises early to seek
her will have no difficulty, for she
will be found sitting at the gate. To
fix one's thought on her is perfect
understanding, and one who is
vigilant on her account will soon be
free from care, because she goes
about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in
their paths, and meets them in every
thought.

Or **Amos 5:18-24**

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Alas for you who desire the day of
the LORD! Why do you want the day
of the LORD? It is darkness, not light;
as if someone fled from a lion, and
was met by a bear; or went into the
house and rested a hand against the
wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not
the day of the LORD darkness, not
light, and gloom with no brightness
in it? I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn
assemblies. Even though you offer
me your burnt-offerings and grain-
offerings, I will not accept them; and
the offerings of well-being of your
fatted animals I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your
songs; I will not listen to the melody
of your harps. But let justice roll down
like waters, and righteousness like an
ever-flowing stream.

PSALM Psalm 70

R *Come to me quickly, O God.*

O God, make speed to save me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
Let those who seek my life
be put to shame and confusion;
let them be turned back and
disgraced
who wish me evil.
Let those who mock and deride me
turn back because of their shame. **R**

But let all who seek you rejoice and
be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say
always, "Great is the Lord!"
As for me, I am poor and needy;
come to me quickly, O God.
You are my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not delay. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-end

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be
uninformed, brothers and sisters,
about those who have died, so that
you may not grieve as others do who
have no hope. For since we believe
that Jesus died and rose again, even
so, through Jesus, God will bring with
him those who have died. For this
we declare to you by the word of the
Lord, that we who are alive, who are
left until the coming of the Lord, will
by no means precede those who have
died. For the Lord himself, with a cry
of command, with the archangel's call
and with the sound of God's trumpet,
will descend from heaven, and the
dead in Christ will rise first. Then we
who are alive, who are left, will be
caught up in the clouds together with
them to meet the Lord in the air; and
so we will be with the Lord for ever.
Therefore encourage one another with
these words.
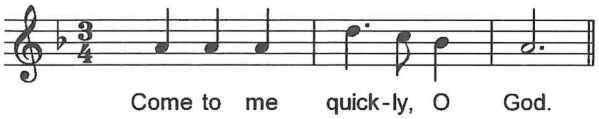
GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

POST COMMUNION

God of peace,
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed
the kingdom
and restored the broken to wholeness
of life:
look with compassion on the anguish
of the world,
and by your healing power
make whole both people and nations;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Christ.



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