

**01 DECEMBER 2024**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



**Collect and Readings for the Holy Communion**

**COLLECT**

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 and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. Amen

**EPISTLE** 1 Thessalonians 3. 9-end

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

## **GOSPEL** Luke 21. 25-36

Jesus said, 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

## **PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

*(for those who are worshipping at home online)*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits you have given me,  
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
May I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.