3rd Sunday before Advent (Year A) *(November 8th 2026) NB – these are not default readings for Remembrance services*

Collect

God, our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease
and poverty and pain shall end,
that earth may know the peace of heaven
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. **Amen.**

Psalm 70

1 O God, make speed to save me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
2 Let those who seek my life
be put to shame and confusion;
let them be turned back and disgraced
who wish me evil.
3 Let those who mock and deride me
turn back because of their shame.
4 But let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in
you; let those who love your salvation say always,
'Great is the Lord!'
5 As for me, I am poor and needy;
come to me quickly, O God.
6 You are my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not delay.

Wisdom 6:12-16

12 Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily
discerned by those who love her, and is found by
those who seek her. 13 She hastens to make herself
known to those who desire her. 14 One who rises
early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate. 15 To fix one's
thought on her is perfect understanding, and one
who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from
care, 16 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

18 Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why
do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not
light; 19 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. 20 Is not
the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom
with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight
in your solemn assemblies. 22 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. 23 Take away from
me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the
melody of your harps. 24 But let justice roll down like
waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing
stream.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-end

13 But 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. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose
again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him
those who have died. 15 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. 16 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. 17 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. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these
words.

Matthew 25:1-13

'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten
bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the
bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five
were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they
took no oil with them; 4 but the wise took flasks of oil
with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all
of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight
there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom!
Come out to meet him." 7 Then all those
bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The
foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for
our lamps are going out." 9 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." 10 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. 11 Later the other bridesmaids came also,
saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." 12 But he replied,
"Truly I tell you, I do not know you." 13 Keep awake
therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Post Communion Prayer

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. **Amen.**