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 *You are my helper and deliverer.*
[O Lord, make haste to help me.]

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
Let those who seek my life
be ashamed and altogether
dismayed;
let those who take pleasure in
my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced. R

Let those who say to me "Aha!"
and gloat over me turn back,
because they are ashamed.
Let all who seek you rejoice and be
glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say
for ever,
"Great is the Lord!" R

But as for me, I am poor and needy;
come to me speedily, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not tarry. 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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