

Lectionary

You are invited to follow the first two readings while seated, and as is the custom, to just listen, standing if possible, as the Holy Gospel is proclaimed.

Sunday 16th November 2nd before Advent

The Collect

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament: Malachi 4:1-2a

A reading from the book of Malachi.

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.
But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

This is the word of the Lord,
All: Thanks be to God.

New Testament: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

A reading from Pauls 2nd letter to the Thessalonians.

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us.
For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you.
This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate.
For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat.
For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work.
Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.
Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

This is the word of the Lord,
All: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.'

They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?'
And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them.

'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.'
Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name.

This will give you an opportunity to testify.
So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance;

for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.
You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death.

You will be hated by all because of my name.
But not a hair of your head will perish.
By your endurance you will gain your souls.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long;

through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

