Sunday 15th November 2026

2nd before Advent

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.

or

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Readings

Old Testament

Zephaniah 1.7, 12–end

7 Be silent before the Lord God!
For the day of the Lord is at hand;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
‘The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm.’
13 Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

New Testament

1 Thessalonians 5.1–11

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 25.14–30

14 ‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and
entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another
two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.
16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded
with them, and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who
had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had
received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his
master’s money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and
settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five
talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you
handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” 21 His
master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have
been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things;
enter into the joy of your master.” 22 And the one with the two talents also
came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I
have made two more talents.” 23 His master said to him, “Well done, good
and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put
you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” 24 Then
the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying,
“Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not
sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25 so I was afraid, and
I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” 26
But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you,
that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27
Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my

return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take
the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all
those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but
from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30]
As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion

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.