

**30 November 2014**

## **First Sunday of Advent**

### **Collect of the Day**

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in  
great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **First Reading**

*1 Corinthians 1.3-9*

My brothers and sisters: <sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace  
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because  
of the grace of God that has been given you in  
Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been  
enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of  
every kind – <sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has  
been strengthened among you – <sup>7</sup>so that you are  
not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the  
revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also  
strengthen you to the end, so that you may be  
blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
<sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the  
fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
(NRSV)

### **Gospel**

*Mark 13.24-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: <sup>24</sup>In those days, after  
that suffering,

the sun will be darkened, and the moon will  
not give its light,

<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and  
the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in  
clouds” with great power and glory.

<sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his

elect from the four winds, from the ends of the  
earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its  
branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves,  
you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when  
you see these things taking place, you know that  
he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this  
generation will not pass away until all these things  
have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass  
away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>‘But about that day or hour no one knows,  
neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but  
only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do  
not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a  
man going on a journey, when he leaves home  
and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work,  
and commands the doorkeeper to be on the  
watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake – for you do not  
know when the master of the house will come, in  
the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at  
dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he  
comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to  
all: Keep awake.’ (NRSV)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await  
the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his  
service and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.