

3rd Sunday before Advent (Remembrance Sunday) — Sunday 12th November 2023
COLLECT, READINGS AND POST COMMUNION PRAYER

THE 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.

1st READING: 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.

2nd READING: 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. ¹⁴For since we believe that
Jesus died and rose again, even so, through
Jesus, God will bring with him those who have
died. ¹⁵For 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. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷Then 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. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with
these words.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

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

THE 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.