

## Second Sunday before Advent

Wishing you a safe and blessed Sunday



Lord we pray that we may be found ready at your coming: may we hear your call and do your will.

Guide your church that it may show forth your light and your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

Bless the mission of the church, as it seeks to reveal your kingdom.  
May we always be people of the day, and not of the night,  
that we may encourage and build one another up in faith,  
using our gifts and our actions to the benefit of others and to your glory.  
Saviour of the world

**save us and help us**

We remember before you all of those who use their gifts in government, in leadership in society and areas of influence.  
May they, particularly at this time, use their gifts for the good of others for the building up of hope and well-being for all.

Saviour of the world

**save us and help us**

We rejoice in the gifts you have given to us;  
may we share them and use them for good.

We pray for all of those unable to practice their skills and talents due to current restrictions, particularly those in the arts.  
As they enrich our lives, so may we remember them in our prayers

Saviour of the world

**save us and help us**

We pray for those known to us who need our prayers today.....  
We pray for those for whom this time will be especially difficult,  
the lonely, the anxious, the heart-broken.



Be with them and hold them in your love and mercy.

Saviour of the world

save us and help us

We rejoice with all the saints who now have the glorious liberty as children of God.

We pray for those we have loved and lost.

Saviour of the world

save us and help us. Amen

### **Our Bible readings for this week:**

#### **1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11**

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

#### **Matthew 25: 14-30**

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a



hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 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.' 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.' 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.' 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.' 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; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 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? 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. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 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. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

### Collect

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



I arise today, through  
The strength of heaven,  
The light of the sun,  
The radiance of the moon,  
The splendor of fire,  
The speed of lightning,  
The swiftness of wind,  
The depth of the sea,

The stability of the earth,  
The firmness of rock.

I arise today, through  
God's strength to pilot me,  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eye to look before me,  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to speak for me,  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's host to save me.

### **Blessing**

Let us be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might,  
let the word of God dwell within us,  
and may God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
be with us and our loved ones,  
now and always. **Amen**

**“Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another..”**

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