Advent Sunday

Collect

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. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 64. 1-9

1 O that you would tear open the heavens
and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your
presence –
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil –
to make your name known to your
adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your
presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did
not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at
your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is
unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy
cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us
away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our
iniquity.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Corinthians 1. 3-9

My brothers and sisters: 3 Grace to you and
peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.
4 I give thanks to my God always for you
because of the grace of God that has been
given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way
you have been enriched in him, in speech
and knowledge of every kind – 6 just as the
testimony of Christ has been strengthened
among you – 7 so that you are not lacking in
any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing
of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also
strengthen you to the end, so that you may
be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus
Christ. 9 God is faithful; by him you were
called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL **Mark 13. 24-37**

Hear the holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to S. Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:
24 'In those days, after that suffering, the sun
will be darkened, and the moon will not give
its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from
heaven, and the powers in the heavens will
be shaken. 26 Then they will see "the Son of
Man coming in clouds" with great power and
glory. 27 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.
28 '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. 29
So also, when you see these things taking
place, you know that he is near, at the very
gates.
30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass
away until all these things have taken place.
31 Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will not pass away. 32 But
about that day or hour no one knows, neither
the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only
the Father.
33 'Beware, keep alert; for you do not know
when the time will come. 34 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. 35 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, 36 or
else he may find you asleep when he comes
suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to
all: Keep awake.'
This is the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion

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. **Amen.**