

Service for the Second Sunday before Advent



St Laurence Church, Downton

15 November 2020

Preparation

Call to Worship

We are all children of light and children of the day;
we are not of the night or of darkness.

Let us not fall asleep
but let us keep awake.

1 Thessalonians 5:5-6

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Team Rector introduces the service

Hymn: Immortal, invisible, God only wise
(*Worcester Cathedral*)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but nought changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render, O help us to see:
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee!

Walter C. Smith (1824-1908)

Psalm 90:1-8,12

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place
in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust,
and say, 'Turn back, you mortals.'

For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Prayer:

Holy One,
we long to be faithful stewards of your abundant grace.
**To serve each other in love and humility;
to serve your world with wisdom and energy.**

Forgive us when we stumble over pride,
when our words and actions are not guided by love.

**Turn our hearts when we act in folly;
restore our energy when it is gone.**

Sometimes, many times, O God, our efforts fail.
But your abundant grace is strong and eternal,
**And forgiveness is ours through Jesus Christ.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

You are a strong tower for all who trust in you:
be now and evermore our defence,
that we may proclaim the only name under heaven
given for health and salvation,
even Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Prayer for the nation - the prayer for this week:

Loving God,
at this time of crisis
when so many are suffering,
we pray for our nation and our world.
Give our leaders wisdom,
our Health Service strength,
our people hope.
Lead us through these parched and difficult days
to the fresh springs of joy and comfort
that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

After each reading:

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Music: Teach us, good Lord
(RSCM Millennium Youth Choir)

Prayers

We are led in a time of prayer

This response is used:

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer is said:

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Conclusion

The 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. **Amen.**

Blessing:

May Christ who makes saints of sinners,
who transforms those who come to him,
raise and strengthen you
that you may transform the world;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Encourage one another and build up each other,
as indeed you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.