



## Worship resources

### INTRODUCTIONS

*For use by lectors, in order of service, parish bulletins and magazines*

#### **Isaiah 64 : 1-9**

As we begin to prepare once more to celebrate the Saviour's birth, this lesson recalls how God has been known in mighty acts with and for his people, Isaiah pleads for the Lord to come again, and to forgive all their sins.

There is a script for four voices for this reading in the worshipping with children site below

**The Psalm** - Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19

#### **1 Corinthians 1 : 3-9**

The Hebrew people anticipated a 'Day of the Lord'. This hope became for Christians the time when the world will now the full presence of Christ in glory. While we wait, there is much to be thankful for as we share God's grace and peace now.

#### **Mark 13 : 24-37**

We begin today a series of readings from Mark's Gospel. Here, Jesus is speaking to his friends about the future and the final coming of the Son of Man, Jesus expects a time of great distress in the world, and tells them to be vigilant and to stand firm.

[Click here to view the readings](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Isaiah%2064:%201-9%0Acw%20Psalm%2080:%201-8,%2018-20%0A1%20Corinthians%201:%203-9%0AMark%2013:%2024-37)

[http://bible.oremus.org/?show\\_adj=no&passages=Isaiah](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Isaiah%2064:%201-9%0Acw%20Psalm%2080:%201-8,%2018-20%0A1%20Corinthians%201:%203-9%0AMark%2013:%2024-37)

[%2064:%201-9%0Acw%20Psalm](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Isaiah%2064:%201-9%0Acw%20Psalm%2080:%201-8,%2018-20%0A1%20Corinthians%201:%203-9%0AMark%2013:%2024-37)

[%2080:%201-8,%2018-20%0A1%20Corinthians%201:%203-9%0AMark](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Isaiah%2064:%201-9%0Acw%20Psalm%2080:%201-8,%2018-20%0A1%20Corinthians%201:%203-9%0AMark%2013:%2024-37)

[%2013:%2024-37](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Isaiah%2064:%201-9%0Acw%20Psalm%2080:%201-8,%2018-20%0A1%20Corinthians%201:%203-9%0AMark%2013:%2024-37)

## COLLECTS OF THE DAY

### Collect One

Almighty God,  
Give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness,  
and put upon us the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which thy Son Jesus Christ  
came to visit us in great humility;  
that in the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty  
to judge both the quick and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who liveth and reigneth with thee  
and the Holy Spirit, now and ever.

*This collect is said after the Collect of the day until Christmas Eve.*

### Collect Two

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 and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we keep awake for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us offer prayers to God who stirs up strength and comes to help us.

For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ.

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For *N* our bishop and all bishops, for the priests, for the deacons and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

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For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place.

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority.

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth.

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, and for those in prison.

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For the dying and the dead.

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need.

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Joining our voices with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord.**

O King of all the nations, only joy of every heart, keystone of the mighty arch who makes us one, come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.

Glory to you for ever. **Amen.**

### POST COMMUNION

God our deliverer,

Awaken our hearts

to prepare the way for the advent of your Son,

that, with minds purified by the grace of his coming,

we may serve you faithfully all our days;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### PRAYERS

God of justice and peace,

from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness,

that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder

before your marvelous deeds.

Raise our heads in expectation,

that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord

and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ,

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who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

We seek the mighty God  
in the most unlikely places  
as a child in a stable,  
and in an empty tomb.  
May God hear these prayers,  
which come from the unlikely corners of our lives.  
Give us ears to hear, O God,  
and eyes to watch,  
that we may know your presence in our midst  
during this holy season of joy  
as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Creator of the world,  
you are the potter, we are the clay,  
and you form us in your image.  
Shape our spirits  
by Christ's transforming power,  
that as one people  
we may live out your compassion and justice,  
whole and sound in the realm of your peace. Amen.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection  
awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless  
until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and  
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

*See also Prayers in Parish Support Pack for Advent in this area of the site*

### LECTIONARY NOTES

#### **Isaiah 64:1-9:**

"O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence" - Do you ever get so frustrated with the way of the world that you want to call on God to break into the scene and rattle things up? I don't blame Isaiah's call. It's just that God hardly ever comes in the ways we're expecting! Isaiah realizes this too, God's unexpected ways: "when you did awesome deeds that we did not expect" he says in v. 3 - what do you expect from God? Do you expect the unexpected?

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"consider, we are all your people." Isaiah is pleading a case here. He realizes people haven't done much for God that would make someone want to stick around and continue being neglected. But remember, Isaiah reminds God, we're yours! I think God does remember.

### ***Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19:***

"let your face shine, that we may be saved." I like this - God's shining face can save us. twice emphasized. Think about Moses' face shining after he'd visited with God on the mountain - the brilliance and glory of being in God's presence.

"how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?" Is God ever angry with our prayers? Probably, when they are so self-centered and calling on God to bring harm to those we deem enemies. But if we interpret God not doing what we ask for as God's anger, I think we've got it wrong...

"you have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure." Again, what beautiful imagery - very poetic. I'm not sure I agree with the theology expressed - but good writing! :)

### ***1 Corinthians 1:3-9:***

V. 9 - "called into the fellowship" - Paul means the fellowship of saints, according to verse 2 of this chapter. You are called to be a saint - believe it! That's you and me, called to be saints. Of course, Paul was talking about the Corinthians, but we can take it for ourselves too. We probably all have a short list of folks we think of as "saints" or at least "saintly". What makes you think of them that way? How can you be more like them?

"you have been enriched in him" - I like this phrasing. Enriched by knowing Jesus.

These are the opening words to the Corinthians - you can see how much Paul is trying to build them up, affirm their faith, get them to stay committed. I think we all need someone who can and will do that for us. And we can do that for someone else too - build them up.

### ***Mark 13:24-37:***

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Advent always begins with surprising "end times" texts that probably catch parishioners off-guard, who are ready to sing Christmas carols. How do we refocus them and us? This text is about time, and expectations and waiting. So is Advent. What we do while we wait is important. Whether or not we live like something exciting is going to happen in our world by God is important.

For me, descriptions of Christ's second coming are not very important in the details. But what Jesus reminds us of is that he *does* come again. I think he comes more than once, always coming in unexpected ways. I know the passages refers to "the big one", the big final return, but I like to think we can think about Jesus returning frequently to our lives. And we're so often unprepared.

"you do not know when the master of the house will come" Another passage talking about end times, if that's only as far as you are wanting to look. Better to think of it this way: so often in my life I am putting things off - procrastinating - not so much about day to day things, like sermon-writing :), etc., but about big things: I will start giving more ... when I'm out of debt. I will take risks for God .... after I get my PhD. I will speak out about what I really believe .... after I'm ordained elder. But the day or hour is unknown, and will arrive unexpectedly. I should stop acting like I have something to wait for before I get to work the way God wants me to. The time is NOW.

*by Beth Quick*

### ONLINE SERMON SOURCES

**Richard J. Fairchild** - Today's texts deal with the coming of the end of time as we know it

- the time when God arrives to judge the world
- the time when the Son of Man gathers the elect from the four corners of the world.

Introduction on how different newspapers would announce the end of the world...

<http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons/b-ad01su.php>

### **America - Waiting in hope**

Sermon comprising a good short, sharp, overview of today's reading. It concludes, "Advent is most obviously a time of special preparation to celebrate properly an event of the past: the birth of Jesus Christ as one of us humans. But the Scripture readings for the First Sunday of Advent can help

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us to place our Advent and Christmas hopes in the context of the ultimate Christian hope: eternal life with Christ in the kingdom of God. They remind us that in the present, Christian life is a matter of watching in hope for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

[http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article\\_id=4497](http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=4497)

### **CHILDREN**

#### **Worshipping With Children**

Comprehensive and accessible notes for the Advent season together with talks for children based on each of the bible readings. This posting takes time to explore, but will repay the reader handsomely.

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2011/07/year-b-first-sunday-of-advent.html>

["T'was the Beginning of Advent,"](#) Children's Time, in Sermons and Liturgies. Richard J. Fairchild. (Scroll down in liturgies to find Children's Time.)