

As we come to a short time of prayer and reflection for the second Sunday before Advent, may we become aware that we are in the presence of God: Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Amen

The Lord be with you

Today's gospel follows on from the passage we heard last week, on the parable of the bridesmaids and how we are to wait for the bridegroom and to be ready upon His return.

As we prepare to reflect on the gospel let us take a moment to review the last week, to notice when we felt close to God and give thanks for those times, and to offer to God for healing and forgiveness those times when we have resisted and rejected the way of love Jesus teaches us.

When we have turned away from you and ignored your will for our lives, Lord have mercy.

When we have behaved just as we wished, without thinking of you, Christ have mercy.

When have failed you by what we do and say, Lord have mercy.

May the God of love and power, forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen

Let us pray:

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 forever.

Amen

We listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew 25:14 -30

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon (attached)

Let us pray:

Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us make our prayer in the power of the Spirit, looking to Jesus the pioneer of our faith.

That with the noble fellowship of the prophets, we may discern the signs of your kingdom in our midst

We pray to you O Lord

That with the glorious company of the apostles, we may proclaim your gospel throughout the world.

We pray to you O Lord

That with the saints in light, we may bind up the brokenhearted and comfort all who mourn.

We pray to you O Lord

In communion with all the saints, let us commend the world to the mercy and protection of God

We gather all these intercessions in the prayer Jesus gave 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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever, Amen.

And we pray for God's blessing:

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen