

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2017



THE LESSON Isaiah 64:1-9

¹If only you would tear open the heavens and come down! Mountains would quake before you ²like fire igniting brushwood or making water boil. If you would make your name known to your enemies, the nations would tremble in your presence.

³When you accomplished wonders beyond all our expectations; when you came down, mountains quaked before you. ⁴From ancient times, no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any god but you who acts on behalf of those who wait for him! ⁵You look after those who gladly do right; they will praise you for your ways. But you

were angry when we sinned; you hid yourself when we did wrong. ⁶We have all become like the unclean; all our righteous deeds are like a menstrual rag. All of us wither like a leaf; our sins, like the wind, carry us away. ⁷No one calls on your name; no one bothers to hold on to you, for you have hidden yourself from us, and have handed us over to our sin.

⁸But now, LORD, you are our father. We are the clay, and you are our potter. All of us are the work of your hand. ⁹Don't rage so fiercely, LORD; don't hold our sins against us forever, but gaze now on your people, all of us.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹ Shepherd of Israel, listen! You, the one who leads Joseph as if he were a sheep. You, who are enthroned upon the winged heavenly creatures. Show yourself ²before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh! Wake up your power! Come to save us!

³Restore us, God! Make your face shine so that we can be saved!

⁴LORD God of heavenly forces, how long will you fume against your people's prayer?

⁵You've fed them bread made of tears; you've given them tears to drink three times over!

⁶You've put us at odds with our neighbors; our enemies make fun of us.

⁷Restore us, God of heavenly forces! Make your face shine so that we can be saved! . . .

¹⁷Let your hand be with the one on your right side—with the one whom you secured as your own—¹⁸then we will not turn away from you! Revive us so that we can call on your name.

¹⁹ Restore us, LORD God of heavenly forces! Make your face shine so that we can be saved!

THE EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I thank my God always for you, because of God's grace that was given to you in Christ Jesus. ⁵That is, you were made rich through him in everything; in all your communication and every kind of knowledge,

⁶in the same way that the testimony about Christ was confirmed with you. ⁷The result is that you aren't missing any spiritual gift while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸He will also confirm your testimony about Christ until the end so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, and you were called by him to partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

²⁴In those days, after the suffering of that time, the sun will become dark, and the moon won't give its light. ²⁵The stars will fall from the sky, and the planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see the Human One coming in the clouds with great power and splendor. ²⁷Then he will send the angels and gather together his chosen people from the four corners of the earth, from the end of the earth to the end of heaven.

²⁸Learn this parable from the fig tree. After its branch becomes tender and it sprouts new leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that he's near, at the door. ³⁰I assure you that this generation won't pass away until all

these things happen. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

³²But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the angels in heaven and not the Son. Only the Father knows. ³³Watch out! Stay alert! You don't know when the time is coming. ³⁴It is as if someone took a trip, left the household behind, and put the servants in charge, giving each one a job to do, and told the doorkeeper to stay alert. ³⁵Therefore, stay alert! You don't know when the head of the household will come, whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows in the early morning or at daybreak. ³⁶Don't let him show up when you weren't expecting and find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to all: Stay alert!"

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MOVING TOWARD THE MANGER

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD,
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON.

JOHN 3:16



ADVENT WEEK ONE: GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

Melody.....St. Crispin LM

P As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth, we approach his manger bed with awe and wonder. We light the first candle on the Advent wreath as we rejoice in the precious gift of God's only Son.

(One candle is lit.)

God loved the world so that he gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in him believe
Should everlasting life receive.

P When Jesus was born, "he came to his own, and his own people did not receive him." We often reject God's Word and will in our lives.

C **Heavenly Father, we turn from you to follow our own sinful desires. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus our Savior.**

- P** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
- C** **That whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**
- P** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,
- C** **But in order that the world might be saved through him.**
- P** In this is love, not that we have loved God
- C** **But that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.**
- P** If God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
- C** **Lord Jesus, we pray that your love will shine out of our lives each day.**

Glory to God, the Father, Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Daily Bible Readings for the First Week of Advent

- Sunday.....John 3:14-17
- Monday.....Romans 12:9-18
- Tuesday.....1 Corinthians 13:1-7
- Wednesday.....1 John 4:7-12
- Thursday.....1 John 4:19-21
- Friday.....Micah 6:6-8
- Saturday.....Romans 3:21-26