Readings + First Sunday of Advent, year B + November 29, 2026

Prayer of the Day

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

First 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 you.
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 as a father to us;
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 forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalmody Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.
And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.
Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Paul writes: 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 Christ, 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 gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 God 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 whom you were called into the partnership of the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Holy Gospel Mark 13:24-37

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all have versions of verses 24-32. Only Mark shares a parable of the returning master afterward, and this particular parable only occurs in Mark.

Jesus said: 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-
Humanity coming in clouds' with great power
and glory. 27 Then the Son-of-Humanity will send
out the angels, and gather the 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 the Son-of-Humanity is near, at the very
gates. 30 I tell you the truth, 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
someone going on a journey, who leaving home
and putting the slaves in charge of their own
work, 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, coming suddenly, the master may
find you asleep. 37 And what I say to you I say to
all: Keep awake."