

2ND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT



OPENING RESPONSES

Lord, you have given us so many gifts.

Make us trustworthy.

Lord, you have given each of us many talents.

Make us trustworthy.

Lord, you gave us Jesus,
to teach us and to save us.

Make us trustworthy.

Lord, make us generous with all your gifts.

Make us trustworthy.

Amen.



GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY



CONFESSION

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Let us be silent before the Lord.

**Lord God, the giver of all good gifts,
we confess that we have trusted
too much in silver and gold.
We have been like the wicked
who stumble;
we have filled the world
with violence and fraud.
We come before you in silence,
to confess our sorrow
and short-sightedness.**

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion.
Shout, O Israel,
for the Lord has taken away
the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The Lord your God is in your midst.
He will renew you in his love.
Amen.



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

 BIG FAMILY OF GOD BIBLE READING**Matthew 25.14-30**

Jesus said to his disciples, ¹⁴“The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” ²¹His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” ²³His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” ²⁶But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



REFLECTION



HOPE OF THE NATIONS



DECLARING OUR FAITH

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**



A TIME OF PRAYER



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Amen.



WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Getting Ready for Advent

Advent is only 2 weeks away. Have you got your advent calendar yet? Next week we will be putting our advent ring together during our service, so your challenge this week is to get all the bits you will need to get ready for Advent.

The basics that you will need are:

- 4 candles the same size
- 1 candle slightly larger than the others
- Something that will hold all five candles
- Decoration

 **IMMORTAL INVISIBLE**

 **THE CONCLUSION**

**Generous God,
as we are sent out
bearing the wealth of riches
that you have entrusted
to each one of us,
may our thankful hearts
become brave hearts,
ready to risk everything
for the sake of your kingdom.
Amen.**

 **BLESSING**

May God, who gives patience and encouragement,
give you a spirit of unity
to live in harmony as you follow Jesus Christ,
so that with one voice
you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen