

## **First Sunday of Advent, December 1**

The Collect and Psalms will be read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer  
The Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel will be read from The New Revised Standard  
Version Bible

**The Collect:** Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your 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 living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Old Testament: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

14 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

### **Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10**

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

my God, I put my trust in you; \*

let me not be humiliated,

nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*

let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O Lord, \*

and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*

for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

10 For your Name's sake, O Lord, \*  
forgive my sin, for it is great.

### **Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. 13 And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

### **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people**

### **Gospel: Luke 21:25-36**

25 "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

27 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.

28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

29 Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 31 So

also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and

drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly,

35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be alert at

all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take

place and to stand before the Son of Man."

### **The Gospel of the Lord**

**On December 2 we celebrate the life of Channing Moore Williams, Missionary Bishop in China and Japan. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

Bishop Williams, a farmer's son, was born in Richmond, Virginia, on July 18, 1829, and brought up in straitened circumstances by his widowed mother. He attended the College of William and Mary and the Virginia Theological Seminary.

Ordained deacon in 1855, he offered himself for work in China, where he was ordained priest in 1857. Two years later, he was sent to Japan and opened work in Nagasaki. His first convert was baptized in 1866, the year he was chosen bishop for both China and Japan.

After 1868, he decided to concentrate all his work in Japan, following the revolution that opened the country to renewed contact with the western world. Relieved of his responsibility for China in 1874, Williams made his base at Yedo (now Tokyo), where he founded a divinity

school, later to become St. Paul's University. At a synod in 1887, he helped bring together the English and American missions to form the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, the Holy Catholic Church of Japan, when the Church there numbered fewer than a thousand communicants.

Williams translated parts of the Prayer Book into Japanese; and he was a close friend and warm supporter of Bishop Schereschewsky, his successor in China, in the latter's arduous work of translating the Bible into Chinese.

After resigning his jurisdiction in 1889, Bishop Williams stayed in Japan to help his successor there, Bishop John McKim, who was consecrated in 1893. Williams lived in Kyoto and continued to work in the opening of new mission stations until his return to America in 1908. He died in Richmond, Virginia, on December 2, 1910.

**Let us pray:** Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your servant Channing Moore Williams, whom you called to preach the Gospel to the people of China and Japan. Raise up in this and every land evangelists and heralds of your kingdom, that your Church may proclaim the unsearchable riches of our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**