

# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The First Sunday of Advent—December 1, 2019

## 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 Reading: Isaiah 2:1–5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in

his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

*Psalm 122*

sung to tune of the Doxology

Jerusalem: with what great joy  
I heard them say, "Let us go there!"  
And now at last we take our stand  
Within your gates to offer prayer.

Jerusalem: a city built  
To be a place of unity;  
The tribes go up, the tribes of God,  
To praise God's Name eternally.

Jerusalem: within your walls  
The thrones of justice serve God's will;  
The ancient tribes of David's house  
Stand and unite God's people still.

Jerusalem: pray for its peace:  
"May all who love you find success;  
Peace be to all within your walls,  
And in your towers be righteousness.

Jerusalem: for comrades' sake  
My prayers for you will never cease;  
Because God's house is standing there,  
I pray forever for your peace."

**Epistle Reading: Romans 13:11–14**

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor

of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36–44**

Jesus said, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two

women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Sermon

Fr. Guy Mackey