

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT HOPE

COLLECT:

God of hope,

give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; so that on the last day, when your Son Jesus shall come again to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to eternal life; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH

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! **ISAIAH 2:1-5**

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 122

Refrain: I was glad when they said to me "Let us go to the house of the Lord"

I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord.
Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R**

Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself; To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord. **R**

For there are the thrones of judgement, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you. **R**

Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers. For my brethren and companions' sake, I pray for your prosperity. Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good. **R**

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

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.

ROMANS 13:11–14

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MATTHEW**

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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.

Matthew 24:36 – 44

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

God of love and power,
your word stirs within us
the expectation of the coming of your Son.
Accept all we offer you this day,
and sustain us with your promise of eternal life.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

God for whom we wait,
you have fed us with the bread of eternal life.
Keep us ever watchful,
that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man.
We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. **AMEN**