

SERIES B TEXTS

First Sunday of Advent

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 him. 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 our Father; 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.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth ² before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! ³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. ⁴ O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. ⁶ You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

¹⁷ But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. ¹⁸ Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

1st Corinthians 1:3-9

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 him, 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 spiritual gift as **you** wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He 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 him **you** were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ "But 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

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shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his 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 he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell **you**, 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 a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and 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 he may find **you** asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to **you** I say to all: Keep awake."