

**Third Sunday before Advent**

**12 November 2017**

**Collect of the Day**

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**First Reading *Amos 5.18-24***

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light; <sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear;  
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake.

<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them;  
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.

<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

**Second Reading *1 Thessalonians 4.13-18***

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**Gospel *Matthew 25.1-13***

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples: <sup>1</sup>The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." <sup>12</sup>But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

**Post Communion Prayer**

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life:  
look with compassion on the anguish of the world,  
and by your healing power make whole both people and nations;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**The week ahead**

- Mon 13<sup>th</sup>      9am Morning prayer in Epwell  
                   12noon Funeral of Ian Warden in Sibford, followed by burial
- Tue 14<sup>th</sup>      9.15am Morning prayer in Broughton  
                   10am Holy Communion in Epwell  
                   7pm for 7.30p Sir Charles Pollard speaks about 40 years of policing that changed the face of the UK  
                   Sibford Village Hall. Tickets £10 on the door
- Wed 15<sup>th</sup>      8.45am Morning Prayer in Sibford  
                   9.30am Holy Communion in Epwell  
                   10am School Assembly at Bishop Carpenter
- Thu 16<sup>th</sup>      9am Morning Prayer in Swalcliffe  
                   EDGE production of Peter Pan commences
- Fri 17<sup>th</sup>      Ronald's Day Off  
                   11am SIAMS meeting at Bishop Carpenter School  
                   6.30pm Benefice Choir rehearsal in Sibford
- Sat 18<sup>th</sup>      9am Morning Prayer in Shutford  
                   10am -12noon Deanery Training on "Leading Intercessions" @Ushercombe, Tadmarton
- Sun 19<sup>th</sup>      8am BCP HC @ Broughton  
                   9.30am HC @ Sibford, Morning #praise @ Swalcliffe and 9.45am HC @ Epwell  
                   11am HC @ Tadmarton and Morning Praise at Broughton and Shutford  
                   6pm BCP Choral Evensong in Sibford