1st December 2024 Advent Sunday

Jeremiah 33. 14-16

The Righteous Branch and the Covenant with David

14 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In 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. ¹⁶In 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.'

Psalm 25

Prayer for Guidance and for Deliverance

Of David.

- ¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- ² O my God, in you I trust;
 do not let me be put to shame;
 do not let my enemies exult over me.
- ³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- ⁴ Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.
- ⁵ Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.
- ⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
- ⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness 'sake, O Lord!
- ⁸ Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
- ⁹ He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

1 Thessalonians 3. 9-end

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

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 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. 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.

Luke 21. 25-36

The Coming of the Son of Man

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. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

29 Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Exhortation to Watch

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