

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

December 3, 2023

Year B, Revised Common Lectionary

*[formatted version with line breaks and verse markers removed]*

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*Long Walk to the Fire*, St. Martin Island, from:

**Isaiah 64:1-9** O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— 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! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. 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. 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. 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. 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. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

**Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19**

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

- ✘ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- ✘ But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.
- ✘ Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.
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**1 Corinthians 1:3-9** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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