

First Sunday of Advent, Year B
Holy Baptism & Eucharist

December 3, 2017
10:30 AM Worship

Welcome to
St. Andrew's
Episcopal Church
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA



About This Worship Service

Worship in the Episcopal Church is liturgical in nature; that is, we used a fixed “script” to guide us through a worship experience in which all are participants.

Although you may be new to a liturgical form of worship, much of the liturgy we use is ancient, some parts dating back to the first centuries following the life and ministry of Jesus; other parts, such as the Lord’s Prayer and parts of the Prayer of Consecration are original to Jesus himself.

This worship booklet contains everything you need to participate fully in this worship service, including *suggestions for when it would be appropriate to stand, sit, or kneel*; when it would be appropriate to “cross” oneself, etc. However, these are only suggestions and we don’t want you to do anything you’re uncomfortable doing or incapable of doing. Additionally, the responses which the congregation makes are shown in bold text.

Brief introductions to the Bible readings can be found on the last page.

If you have any questions about anything you see going on, please don’t hesitate to ask anyone sitting near you. Or, you can call the church office at (405) 372-3357. You can also call or text Fr. Jim Cook at (405) 780-5316. Or, you can visit our website:

www.SaintAndrewsChurch.org

Childcare is provided from 9:15 AM through to the end of the 10:30 AM worship. You may ask an usher or greeter for directions to the nursery.

Bathrooms are available in both the Parish Hall and the Admin/Ed Building. You may ask an usher or greeter for directions.

Make no mistake, we're glad you've joined us for worship! While you're waiting for the service to begin, please take a moment to silence your cell phones and other electronic devices. Thanks!

Music Notes

During this season of Advent we change our music for the sung parts of the Liturgy to settings by Franz Schubert. In addition to being printed in the service folder, they are given in the front portion of the Hymnal where an "S" preceding a number designates the item as service music. We will also change our setting of the Doxology, using the familiar tune known as "Old Hundredth," and we will sing a different musical setting for the Psalm.

The Service of Advent Lessons and Carols, a decades-long tradition at St. Andrew's, will be celebrated this coming Sunday, Dec. 10, at the 10:30 service. In this service, Biblical lessons begin with the fall of Adam, move through some prophecies from the Old Testament, and then focus on the events leading up to the birth of the Savior. Music corresponding with each lesson will be sung both as congregational hymns and as choir anthems. Please

plan to attend this beautiful service, and bring friends with you.

Prelude

Preludes on “Once He Came in Blessing”
– J.S. Bach and Heinrich Buttstedt

The Congregation may stand.

Hymn 57

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Opening Sentences

BCP 299

✝ Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures for ever.

There is one Body and one Spirit;
There is one hope in God's call to us;

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
One God and Father of all.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

The Congregation may kneel.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the
works of darkness, and put on the armor of light,
now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son
Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that
in the last day, when he shall come again in his
glorious majesty to judge both the living and the
dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Congregation may be seated.

Readings from Holy Scripture

ISAIAH 64: 1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18



1. Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
leading Joseph like a | **flock**; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned
upon the | **cherubim**.
2. In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin,
and Man- | **asseh**, *
stir up your strength
and come to | **help us**.
3. Restore us, O God of | **hosts**; *
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be | **saved**.
4. O Lord God of | **hosts**, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your | **people**?
5. You have fed them with the bread of | **tears**; *
you have given them bowls of tears to | **drink**.
6. You have made us
the derision of our | **neighbors**, *
and our enemies laugh us to | **scorn**.
7. Restore us, O God of | **hosts**; *
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be | **saved**.
16. Let your hand be upon the man
of your right | **hand**, *
the son of man you have made
so strong for your- | **self**.
17. And so will we never turn a- | **way from you**; *
give us life, that we may call upon your | **Name**.

18. Restore us, O Lord God of | **hosts**; *
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be | **saved**.

1 CORINTHIANS 1: 3-9

A reading from St. Paul's first letter to the Christians in Corinth.

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 spiritual 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 him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Congregation may stand.

Hymn 640

Stanzas 1-2 before the Gospel; stanza 3 afterwards.

Watchman, tell us of the night,
what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height,
see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray

ought of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,
promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night;
higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light,
peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone
gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own;
see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night,
for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,
doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease;
hie thee to thy quiet home.
Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace,
lo! the Son of God is come!

MARK 13: 24-37

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

✚ Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 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.

“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. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 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. 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Once the Minister has entered the pulpit, and invoked the Holy Trinity, the Congregation may be seated.

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

BCP 301

The Candidates for Holy Baptism
will now be presented.

*The candidates who are able to answer for themselves are
presented individually by their Sponsors, as follows*

For Nathan Washam

Presenters I present Nathan Oliver-Max Washam
to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Fr. Jim Nathan, do you desire to be baptized?

Nathan I do.

*Then the candidates unable to answer for themselves are
presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as
follows.*

For Logan Pope

Presenters I present Logan James Pope
to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Minister Will you be responsible for seeing that
the child you present is brought up in
the Christian faith and life?

Presenters I will, with God's help.

Minister Will you by your prayers and witness
help this child to grow into the full
stature of Christ?

Presenters I will, with God's help.

The Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children.

Minister Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Presenters I renounce them.

Minister Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Presenters I renounce them.

Minister Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Presenters I renounce them.

Minister Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Presenters I do.

Minister Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Presenters I do.

Minister Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Presenters I do.

After all have been presented and examined, the Minister addresses the congregation, saying

Minister Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People **We will!**

Minister

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Congregation may stand.

The Baptismal Covenant BCP 304

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the ✝ resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidates BCP 305

Minister Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Intercessor Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Teach them to love others in the
power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Send them into the world in witness to
your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Bring them to the fullness of your
peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Minister Grant, O Lord, that all who are
baptized into the death of Jesus Christ
your Son may live in the power of his
resurrection and look for him to come
again in glory; who lives and reigns
now and forever.

People **Amen.**

*The Congregation may be seated while the Baptismal parties
assemble at the Font.*

Thanksgiving over the Water [BCP 306](#)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of
water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the
beginning of creation. Through it you led the

children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Baptism

BCP 307

For Nathan Washam

NATHAN OLIVER-MAX WASHAM, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

For Logan Pope

LOGAN JAMES POPE, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Minister Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Then the Minister places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross, and saying to each one

NATHAN, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

LOGAN, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

Minister Let us welcome the newly baptized.

People **We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

The Congregation may stand.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord. Afterwards, they may be seated.

Greetings & Announcements

The Offertory

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.

Offertory Anthem

“Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor”
– Malcolm Archer

Judge Eternal, throned in splendor,
Lord of lords and King of kings,
with your living fire of judgment
purge this land of bitter things;
solace all its wide dominion
with the healing of your wings.

Still the weary folk are pining
for the hour that brings release,
and the city’s crowded clangor
cries aloud for sin to cease,
and the homesteads and the woodlands
plead in silence for their peace.

Crown, O God, your own endeavor;
cleave our darkness with your sword;
feed the faithless and the hungry
with the richness of your word;
cleans the body of this nation
through the glory of the Lord.

– Henry Scott Holland

The Congregation may stand for the Presentation.

The Presentation of our Alms

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The Great Thanksgiving BCP 367
Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Preface for Baptism **Because in Jesus Christ our Lord you have received us as your sons and daughters, made**

us citizens of your kingdom, and given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord” *Hymnal S-130*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he †
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Congregation may kneel.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. 🇵🇸

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and

said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” 🚩🚩🚩

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” 🚩🚩🚩

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified ✚ by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed Andrew and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN!** 🇺🇸

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover
is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia.**

“Jesus, Lamb of God”

Hymnal S-164

**Jesus, Lamb of God:
Have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins:
Have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world:
Give us your peace.**

Invitation to Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Communion of the People

All persons who seek God are invited to receive Holy Communion.

To receive the Bread, extend your palms, one crossed over the other, upwards towards the Minister, and a wafer will be placed into your hands. Gluten-free wafers are available; make your request known to the Minister administering the Bread.

To receive the Wine, please assist in guiding the cup to your lips. Alternately, you may dip the wafer in the wine and place it in your mouth.

If you wish to receive only a Blessing, cross your arms over your chest while kneeling or standing at the altar rail.

If mobility-issues prevent you from coming to the Altar, Communion can be brought to you. Please alert the Greeter to your situation.

Finally, it would be helpful if you blotted your lips of any lip balm or lipstick, as it leaves an oily and/or waxy residue on the linens that is difficult to remove.

Communion Anthem

Advent Carol
– Dale Wood

“Drop down dew, O gracious heaven!
Let the clouds rain down the Just!
Let the earth bud forth the Savior!
In thy promise, Lord, we trust.”
Thus the patriarchs were crying,
When the earth in bondage sighing
Sought in vain for heaven’s gate,
Closed by sin and Satan’s hate.

God the Father in his mercy
Planned to save our fallen race,
Whilst the burden of our sinning
God the Son deigned to embrace.
God the Spirit gave his token
Through the Virgin who had spoken:
“Lo, thy handmaid, Lord, has heard,
Work in me thy wondrous word.”

Then the Son took man’s frail nature,
Was made flesh and dwelled on earth.
Life and Light with grace abundant
He bestowed of priceless worth.
Earth, rejoice, exult with gladness,
A new Sun dispels our sadness,
Let us then our voices raise,
Let us sing our Savior’s praise.

Hymn 53

Once he came in blessing,
all our ills redressing;
came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
bore the cross to save us,
hope and freedom gave us.

Still he comes within us,
still his voice would win us
from the sins that hurt us,
would to Truth convert us:
not in torment hold us,
but in love enfold us.

Thus, if thou canst name him,
not ashamed to claim him,
but wilt trust him boldly
nor dost love him coldly,
he will then receive thee,
heal thee, and forgive thee.

One who thus endureth
bright reward secureth.
Come, then, O Lord Jesus,
from our sins release us;
let us here confess thee
till in heaven we bless thee.

Sending our the Lay Eucharistic Visitors

In the Name of God, we send you forth
bearing these holy gifts, that those to
whom you go may share with us in the

communion of Christ's Body and Blood; for though we are many, we share one Bread and one Cup. Amen.

The Congregation may kneel.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

BCP 366

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✚ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen.

The Congregation may stand.

Hymn 546

Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve,
and press with vigor on;
a heavenly race demands thy zeal,
and an immortal crown,
and an immortal crown.

A cloud of witnesses around
hold thee in full survey;
forget the steps already trod
and onward urge thy way,
and onward urge thy way.

'Tis God's all-animating voice
that calls thee from on high;
'tis his own hand presents the prize
to thine aspiring eye,
to thine aspiring eye.

Then wake, my soul, stretch every nerve,
and press with vigor on;
a heavenly race demands thy zeal,
and an immortal crown,
and an immortal crown.

The Dismissal

Grant, O Lord God, that what we have heard with
our ears, and said and sung with our lips, we
may believe in our hearts, and practice in our lives;
for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Prelude on “Once He Came in Blessing”
– Johann Gottfried Walther

Introductions to the Bible Readings

Isaiah 64: 1-9

The Hebrew Bible lesson presents a contrite plea to God for merciful justice. The prophet recalls earlier times when the Lord’s presence made the very mountains quake. Now the people have sinned grievously and are suffering for their wrongs. They can only pray that the Lord will remember them as God’s children, God’s creatures, and temper divine anger.

Psalms 80: 1-7, 17-19

A lament and a plea to the Lord, the shepherd of Israel, that God will turn away divine anger and restore the people.

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

In this reading Paul greets the new disciples in Corinth, telling them of his gratitude to God on their behalf and offering comfort and assurance. Because they are sanctified in Christ, these converts, together with those everywhere who call upon Jesus, have a vocation as saints. They are rich in spiritual gifts. Trusting in a faithful God, they wait for the great revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 13: 24-37

In this gospel lesson Jesus presents his disciples with a vision of the end of human history and repeatedly urges them to be on watch. The universe itself will reflect this transformation as the Son of Man comes. That time is near, but no one knows it exactly. Disciples must live expectantly and be on the alert for their Lord's coming.