

## **Advent 2017**

### **Week One**

**Thursday, December 7**

#### **Prayers for candle-lighting**

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. *[Light the candle]*

*You meet those who gladly do right,*

*those who remember you in your ways.*

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

#### **Mark 13:31**

Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

One way to speak of the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead is to say that he lived a life so full of the creative, life-giving power of God that his was a life that no one had the power to kill. The words he spoke in order to teach this way of life to his disciples are likewise not subject to destruction. They are life-giving. They cannot pass away, because they are written in the very fabric of the creation. As Jesus' followers, we are called to embody his words of life in our own acts of love, mercy, holiness, and justice. Every day, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live the words of Jesus among the people, creatures, and events of our lives. When we do so, we open a door onto eternal life.

## **For Reflection**

We might think of the words of Jesus as something bigger than the exact words themselves, perhaps his whole pattern of life, the ways in which he incarnated the life of God in our world. But there are also particular words of Jesus that have power in our lives. One of the powerful statements of Jesus occurs when he stills the storm that has threatened the little boat where the disciples are straining at the oars. Jesus approaches them across the water, saying, *"Take heart. It is I. Do not be afraid."*

Take those words with you today. Do not let them "pass away." See how they unfold their meaning in the various experiences you have today.