

## ADVENT 4

### THE COLLECT

**O LORD, raise up, we pray thee, thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory, world without end. Amen.**



1. What do we pray God to raise up?  
A. His \_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 51:)
2. What do we pray him to do?  
A. to \_\_\_\_\_ among us  
B. with great \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ us. (Psalm 53:2)
3. By what are we sore hindered in running the race?  
A. through our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 12:1)
4. What do we pray may speedily help and deliver us?  
A. His bountiful \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ -
5. Through Whom do we pray this?  
A. through \_\_\_\_\_

### INTRODUCTION.

Remember the war in South Africa, how badly all seemed to go for a while, but when Lord Roberts arrived how soon all was changed for the better. That is the thought in the Collect today. We are sore let and hindered. Only the presence and power of Christ can give us the victory, so we pray for it. In the Scripture you are going to read today, you will see a sort of picture of all this: Here were sufferers in need, disciples weak and helpless, enemies mocking, Satan in power; but when Christ arrives all is changed.

**Read: St. Mark 9:14-28**



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**Read: St. Mark 9:14-28**



## I. A SCENE OF DISTRESS.

1. **In the scripture reading** we see the *poor boy* whose body was in the power of an evil spirit, we see the *father* who was grieved because of his boy's sufferings, and we see the *disciples* who were weak and helpless and could not cast out the evil spirit (because there was not enough faith and prayer and self-denial). We also see the scribes, who were mostly Christ's *enemies* and who were really glad when Christ's cause seemed to be beaten.
2. **So it is also now.** There are many *sufferers* and many who are *tempted* by evil spirits to the injury of their souls. There are *fathers and mothers* and many besides who are grieved and sad because of the sin and suffering in the world. There are *Christians* who try to relieve the suffering and to turn people from sin; but we often fail, and Christ's cause often seems to be losing; that is because there is not enough faith and prayer and self-denial among us. There are *enemies* who do not care that Christ's cause should win, and are really glad when it seems to be losing.

## II. A SCENE OF DELIGHT.

1. **But where was Christ all the while?** The night before he had gone up Mt. Hermon with some disciples. Here *He was glorified* (the Transfiguration). *It was so wonderful* that Peter offered to build tents so that they may stay there always. But although Christ was away, He saw and knew all that was going on below. *He cared* for the suffering boy and for His disciples, and thought about them, and *would soon go down.*
2. **So it is still now.** Christ has *gone back to His glory.* Many of His best and wisest servants have left us and are with Christ—all there *is delightful, bright, and happy.* But *Christ has not forgotten* us. Once before He saw the world in darkness and trouble and came down to save it, and so He will again.

## III. A SCENE OF DELIVERANCE.

1. **When Christ came** down the mountain He heard the father's prayer and strengthened the man's faith. He cast out the evil spirit and healed the boy. He put to shame the enemies. He gathered His disciples around Him and cheered, comforted, and corrected them
2. **And so at the end He will come in glory.** His saints will come with him, He will strengthen our drooping faith, He will drive away sin and suffering, and will put to shame His enemies.

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