

**An Order for
The Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2020
in the Year of the Great Pandemic 2020**

The Gathering

As the second candle on the Advent Wreath is lit, the following is said:

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets,
but in our days you speak through your Son,
whom you have appointed the heir of all things.
Grant us, your people, to walk in his light,
that we may be found ready and watching
when he comes again in glory and judgement;
for you are our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all:
and also with you.

Hymn: There's A Voice In The Wilderness Crying

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places,
where the Lord our God may go!

2 O Zion, that brings good tidings,
get up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away;

3 but the word of our God endureth,
the arm of the Lord is strong;
he stands in the midst of nations,
and he will right the wrong.
He shall feed His flock like a shepherd,
the lambs he'll gently hold;
to pastures of peace he'll lead them,
and bring them safe to his fold.

Invitation to Confession

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

There is a moment of silence in which we recollect all the thing we have done which we ought not to have done, and left undone those things which we ought to have done.

All Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,
and keep *you* in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Collect

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
 that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
 that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Psalm: Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

1 Lord, you were gracious to your land; ♦
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

2 You forgave the offence of your people ♦
and covered all their sins.

8 I will listen to what the Lord God will say, ♦
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,
that they turn not again to folly.

9 Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, ♦
that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth are met together, ♦
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth ♦
and righteousness look down from heaven.

12 The Lord will indeed give all that is good, ♦
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him ♦
and direct his steps in the way.

**Glory to God, Source of all being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Hymn: Prepare Ye The Way Of The Lord

Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

The Gospel Reading: Mark 1.1-8

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem
were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan,

confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist,
and he ate locusts and wild honey.

He proclaimed,

“The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;
I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.
I have baptized you with water;
but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Anthem: “Comfort Ye” and “Every Valley Shall Be Exalted”

from *The Messiah* by G. W. F. Handel:

Kurt Streit, Tenor; Trevor Pinnock and The English Consort.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

Reflection

Hymn:

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near;
Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

Solo: Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make a straight path for him.
Prepare the way of the Lord.

Rejoice in the Lord always, God is at hand.
Joy and gladness for all who seek the Lord.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.
I waited for the Lord, God heard my cry.

Seek first the kingdom of God;
Seek and you shall find.

The Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

Amen.

An Intercession.

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional Language)

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Announcements

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn: On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.

3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.

The Dismissal

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.

Amen.