

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be His Kingdom, now and forever.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy Holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Decalogue

God spake these words and said:

I am the Lord thy God who brought Thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Honor thy father and thy mother.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt do no murder.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not steal.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not covet.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and write all these Thy laws in our hearts, we beseech Thee.***

Lord, Have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,
we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord;
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

The Lord be with you.
And with Thy spirit.
Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach
repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to
heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy
the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Lessons

A Reading from Isaiah 40:1-11

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.

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD,
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

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

10 Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

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

12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

**13 Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

A Reading from 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord!

Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.*

Through Him all things were made.

*For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit*

*He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.*

*For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.*

*On the third day He rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.*

*With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.*

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

*We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.*

Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and ever living God, who in Thy Holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto Thy divine Majesty, beseeching Thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess Thy Holy Name may agree in the truth of Thy Holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth Thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer Thy Holy Sacraments. And to all Thy people give Thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive Thy Holy Word, truly serving Thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech Thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold Thy gracious hand in all Thy works, that, rejoicing in Thy whole creation, they may honor Thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of Thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech Thee, of Thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless Thy Holy Name for all Thy servants departed this life in Thy faith and fear beseeching Thee to grant them continual growth in Thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all Thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of Thy heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

Amen.

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1:15

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

*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.

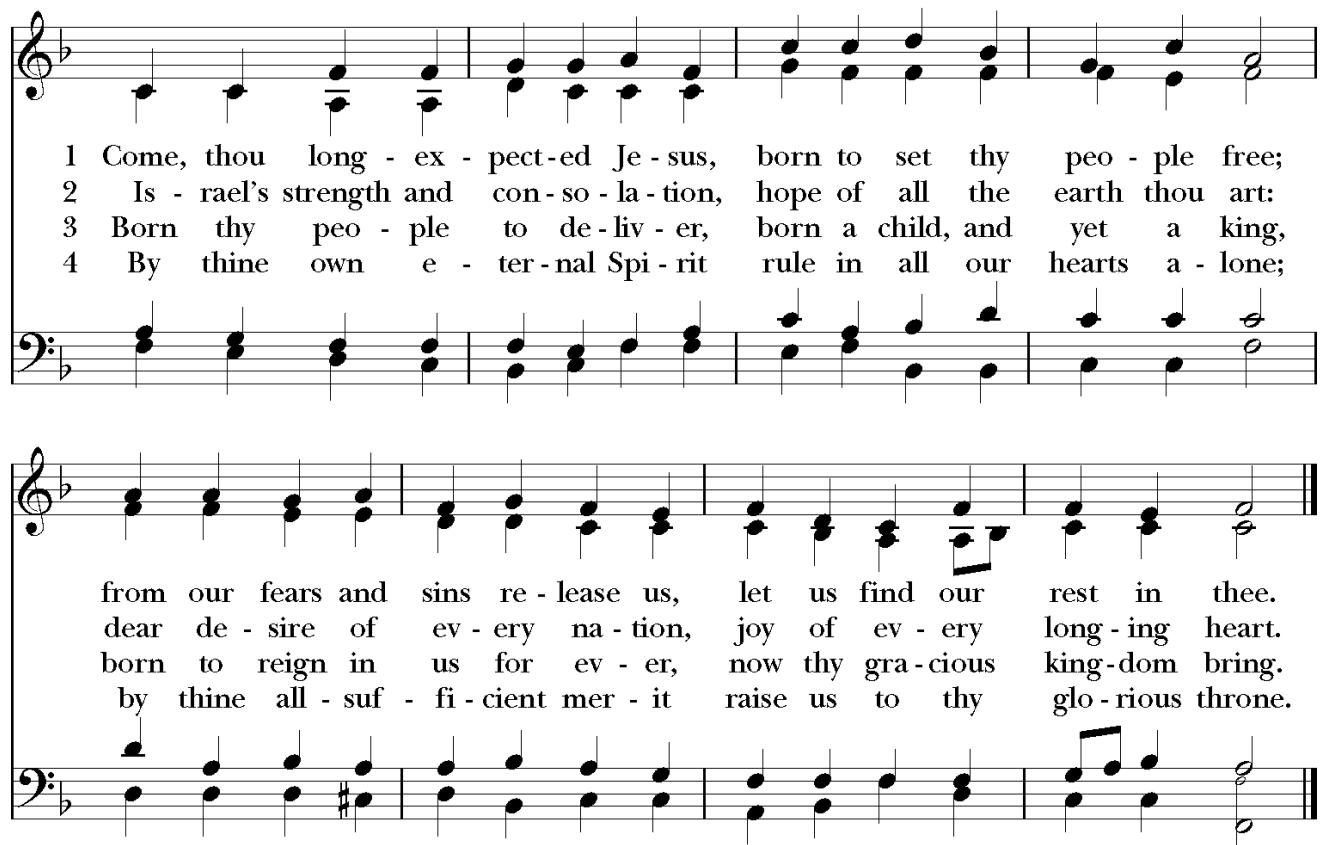
*And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

*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.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.; and the blessing+ of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.

Amen.



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cent mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesange*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.