



# **Church of the Advent**

Morning Prayer: Rite One  
Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020  
8:15am

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

*Isaiah 40:3*

## CONFSSION OF SIN

*The Officiant says to the people*

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

**Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our  
own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws,  
we have left undone those things which we ought to  
have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to  
have done.  
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

*Officiant stands and says*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen**

## THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Officiant      O Lord, open thou our lips.

People          **And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Officiant      Our King and Savior draweth nigh:

People          **O come, let us adore him.**

VENITE

*Psalm 95:1-7*

**O** come, let us sing unto the Lord; \*  
    let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
    and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God, \*  
    and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are all the corners of the earth, \*  
    and the strength of the hills is his also.  
The sea is his, and he made it, \*  
    and his hands prepared the dry land.  
**O** come, let us worship and fall down, \*  
    and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is the Lord our God, \*  
    and we are the people of his pasture  
    and the sheep of his hand.  
**O** worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
    let the whole earth stand in awe of him.  
For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, \*  
    and with righteousness to judge the world  
    and the peoples with his truth.

Officiant      Our King and Savior draweth nigh:  
People          **O come, let us adore him.**

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

1 **Y**ou 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.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT - Isaiah 40:1-11

**C**omfort, 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.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

THE SONG OF MARY      *Luke 1:46-55*

**My soul doth magnify the Lord, \*  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
For he hath regarded \*  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold from henceforth \*  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, \*  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him \*  
throughout all generations.  
He hath showed strength with his arm; \*  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, \***

**and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, \*  
as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

THE EPISTLE – 2 Peter 3:8-15a

**D**o 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.

Reader      The Word of the Lord.

People      **Thanks be to God.**

THE SONG OF SIMEON    *Luke 2:29-32*

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, \*  
according to thy word;  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, \*  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, \*  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

THE GOSPEL – Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
People      **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

**T**he 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

*People*      **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

SERMON by *The Rev. Jason Oden*

#### THE APOSTLES' CREED

*Officiant*      Let us recite together the Apostle's Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### THE PRAYERS

*Officiant*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*      **And with thy spirit.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

**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.**

#### PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

*The congregation is invited to stand*

*Officiant* Gracious God, through your messengers the prophets you have called your people to prepare the way of the Lord and to welcome the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God: Speak tenderly to your people that we may wait for and hasten the coming day, saying: Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

*Intercessor* Indwelling God, you have baptized your Church with the Holy Spirit: Inspire us to lead lives of holiness and godliness as we prepare for the new heavens and a new earth, so that as Christ comes he finds us to be a people of peace and justice.

Mercy and truth have met together;

**righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

*Intercessor* Holy and Mighty One, open the ears and eyes of the leaders of all the nations that they may listen to what the Lord God is saying, for you are speaking peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

Mercy and truth have met together;

**righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

*Intercessor* Compassionate One, look upon the needs of all humanity: Feed your flock like a shepherd; gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom, gently leading the mother sheep, that all may know the comfort of your strength.

Mercy and truth have met together;

**righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

*Intercessor* Ever-present God, lift up your voice with power to herald good tidings to the people of this community to cast out all fear as we listen for the happy cry of your coming salvation.

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

Intercessor Glorious One, come with might in your divine recompense to reveal your glory to all who look to you in hope, as we pray especially for \_\_\_\_\_. (*Congregation is welcome to add their own petitions.*)

Accept our glad tidings for those who offer you their gracious thanksgivings, especially for \_\_\_\_\_. (*Congregation is welcome to add their own thanksgivings.*)

Bring into your everlasting reign those who have died, especially \_\_\_\_\_. (*Congregation may add the names of those to remember.*)

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

Officiant Look upon your creation and comfort your people, O Holy One: Let every valley be lifted up and every mountain and hill be made low; let the uneven ground become level and the rough places a plain, that all people may see the revelation of the glory of God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

**M**erciful 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 for ever. **Amen.**

#### A COLLECT FOR SUNDAYS

**O** God, who makest us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of thy Son our Lord: Grant us this day such blessing through our worship of thee, that the days to come may be spent in thy favor; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### A COLLECT FOR PEACE

**O** God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us, thy humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his Lutheran counterpart Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton welcome congregations and individuals to regularly pray "A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God." This prayer is meant to unite us in common prayer and revive us for common mission, wherever and however we may be gathered.*

#### A PRAYER FOR THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*Celebrant and people*

**God of all power and love,  
we give thanks for your unfailing presence  
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.  
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.  
Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:  
a people who pray, worship, learn,  
break bread, share life, heal neighbors,  
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.  
Wherever and however we gather,  
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,  
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

**C**omfort, O comfort to you, God's people. In your wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, and in your desert, make straight a highway for our God.

Greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, for he is lifting every valley and removing every mountain, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

You are baptized with the Holy Spirit. Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other; truth springs from the earth and justice looks down from heaven. Lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, do not fear.

And the peace of our gentle God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and comfort you, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Romans 15:13*



#### **Church of the Advent**

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OPEN DOOR MINISTRY

**Open Door Ministries**  
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