

Evensong (BCP) – Sunday 6th December 2020
The Second Sunday of Advent

Opening greeting, Lighting of 1st & 2nd Advent Candles and sentence of Scripture:

Leader:

Beloved, we are come together in the presence of Almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all such things as their well-being doth require.

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

A general Confession to be said of the whole Congregation after the Minister.

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, And there is no health in us: But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders; Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults, Restore thou them that are penitent, According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu 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.

The Absolution or Remission of sins to be pronounced by the Priest, standing:

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and remission of your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Cantor: O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir. **And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

Cantor. O God, make speed to save us.

Choir. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Here, all standing up, the Cantor shall say,

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

Choir.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Cantor. Praise ye the Lord.
Answer. The Lord's Name be praised.

Then shall be said the Psalm.

Psalm 40: 12-end

ALL

**12 Do not withhold your compassion from me, O Lord;
let your love and your faithfulness always preserve me,**

**13 For innumerable troubles have come about me;
my sins have overtaken me so that I cannot look up;
they are more in number than the hairs of my head,
and my heart fails me.**

**14 Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.**

**15 Let them be ashamed and altogether dismayed
who seek after my life to destroy it;
let them be driven back and put to shame
who wish me evil.**

**16 Let those who heap insults upon me
be desolate because of their shame.**

**17 Let all who seek you rejoice in you and be glad;
let those who love your salvation say always,
'The Lord is great.'**

**18 Though I am poor and needy,
the Lord cares for me.**

**19 You are my helper and my deliverer;
O my God, make no delay.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end.
Amen.**

Then follows a Lesson of the Old Testament.

1Kings 22:3-17

22 ³The king of Israel said to his servants, "Do you know that Ramoth-gilead belongs to us, yet we are doing nothing to take it out of the hand of the king of Aram?"

⁴He said to Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to battle at Ramoth-gilead?" Jehoshaphat replied to the king of Israel, "I am as you are; my people are your people, my horses are your horses."

⁵But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, "Inquire first for the word of the LORD." ⁶Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred of them, and said to them, "Shall I go to battle against Ramoth-gilead, or shall I refrain?" They said, "Go up; for the LORD will give it into the hand of the king." ⁷But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there no other prophet of the LORD here of whom we may inquire?" ⁸The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is still one other by whom we may inquire of the LORD, Micaiah son of Imlah; but I hate him, for he never prophesies anything favourable about me, but only disaster." Jehoshaphat said, "Let the king not say such a thing." ⁹Then the king of Israel summoned an officer and said, "Bring quickly Micaiah son of Imlah." ¹⁰Now the king of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah were sitting on their thrones, arrayed in their robes, at the threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets were prophesying before them. ¹¹Zedekiah son of Chenaanah made for himself horns of iron, and he said, "Thus says the LORD: With these you shall gore the Arameans until they are destroyed." ¹²All the prophets were prophesying the same and saying, "Go up to Ramoth-gilead and triumph; the LORD will give it into the hand of the king."

¹³The messenger who had gone to summon Micaiah said to him, "Look, the words of the prophets with one accord are favourable to the king; let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak favourably." ¹⁴But Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, whatever the LORD says to me, that I will speak."

¹⁵When he had come to the king, the king said to him, "Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we refrain?" He answered him, "Go up and triumph; the LORD will give it into the hand of the king." ¹⁶But the king said to him, "How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"

¹⁷Then Micaiah said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, like sheep that have no shepherd; and the LORD said, 'These have no master; let each one go home in peace.'"

And after that Magnificat (or the Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary).

MAGNIFICAT (SUNG BY CHOIR): *[Luke 1]*

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

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 shewed 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.

ALL [Stand]:

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.**

Then a Lesson of the New Testament.

Romans 15:4-13

4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. **5** May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, **6** so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. **8** For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, **9** and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; **10** and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; **11** and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; **12** and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." **13** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

And after that Nunc dimittis (or the Song of Simeon).

NUNC DIMITTIS (SUNG BY CHOIR): [Luke 2.29]

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.

ALL [Stand]:

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.**

Then shall be said the Apostles' Creed, by the Minister and the people standing.

The Apostles' 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 Catholick Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body,
And the Life everlasting.
Amen.

After that these Prayers following:

The Minister first pronouncing with a loud voice,

Minister. The Lord be with you.

Answer. **And with thy spirit.**

Minister. Let us pray.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Answer. **Christ, have mercy upon us.**
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Then the Minister and people shall say the Lord's Prayer.

**OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Then the Cantor standing up shall sing,

Cantor. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir. And grant us thy salvation.

Cantor. O Lord, save the Queen.

Choir. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Cantor. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Choir. And make thy chosen people joyful.

Cantor. O Lord, save thy people.

Choir: And bless thine inheritance.

Cantor. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Choir. Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Cantor. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The First Collect at Evening Prayer [for the Second Sunday of Advent]

Almighty God; give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Second Collect at Evening Prayer

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

The Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Intercessions, concluding with

ALL:

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

[2 Corinthians 13]

Homily

The choir sings the closing Advent Hymn: [those worshipping at home may wish to join in]

1. Wake, o wake! with tidings thrilling, the watchmen all the air are filling,
Arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! no more delaying, "The hour has come!" we hear them saying.
Where are ye all, ye virgins wise?

The Bridegroom comes in sight, raise high your torches bright!

Alleluia!

The wedding song swells long and strong:

Go forth and join the festal throng.

2. Zion hears the watchmen shouting, her heart leaps with joy undoubting,
She stands and waits with eager eyes;
See her Friend from heaven descending, Adorned with truth and grace unending!
Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.

Now come, thou precious Crown, Lord Jesus, God's own Son!

Hosanna!

Let us prepare to follow there,

Where in thy supper we may share.

3. Every soul in thee rejoices; from men and angelic voices

Be glory given to thee alone!

Now the gates of pearl receive us, thy presence never more shall leave us,

We stand with angels round thy throne.

Earth cannot give below the bliss thou dost bestow.

Alleluia!

Grant us to raise to length of days,

The triumph-chorus of thy praise.

Blessing

Here ends the Order of Evensong.