

Evening Prayer Sunday, 10 December 2023

The Second Sunday of Advent

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

Reveal among us the light of your presence

All that we may behold your power and glory.

Hymn

Creator of the starry height,
your people's everlasting light,
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,
answer your servants when they call.

In sorrow at the helpless cry
of all creation doomed to die,
you came to save a fallen race
with healing gifts of heavenly grace.

You came, the Bridegroom of the bride,
as drew the world to evening-tide,

proceeding from a virgin shrine,
the Son of Man, yet Lord divine.

At your great name, exalted now,
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
and all in heaven and earth shall own
that you are Lord and King alone.

To Jesus praise for ever be,
whose advent sets your people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Spirit blest, for evermore.

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever.

Amen.

The Word of God

*Psalm 40**

All: Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.

1 I waited patiently for the Lord; ♦
he inclined to me and heard my cry.

2 He brought me out of the roaring pit, out of the mire and clay; ♦
he set my feet upon a rock and made my footing sure.

3 He has put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; ♦
many shall see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.

- 4 Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, ♦
who does not turn to the proud that follow a lie.
- 5 Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.
How great your designs for us! ♦
There is none that can be compared with you.
- 6 If I were to proclaim them and tell of them ♦
they would be more than I am able to express.
- 7 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire ♦
but my ears you have opened;
- 8 Burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not required; ♦
then said I: 'Lo, I come.
- 9 'In the scroll of the book it is written of me that I should do your will, O my God; ♦
I delight to do it: your law is within my heart.'
- 10 I have declared your righteousness in the great congregation; ♦
behold, I did not restrain my lips, and that, O Lord, you know.
- 11 Your righteousness I have not hidden in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; ♦
I have not concealed your loving-kindness and truth from the great congregation.
- 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.

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen**

All: Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.

Canticle *A Song of the Spirit*

All Surely I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

- 1 'Behold, I am coming soon', says the Lord,
'and bringing my reward with me, ♦
to give to everyone according to their deeds.
- 2 'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, ♦
the beginning and the end.'
- 3 Blessed are those who do God's commandments,
that they may have the right to the tree of life, ♦
and may enter into the city through the gates.
- 4 'I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, ♦
with this testimony for all the churches.
- 5 'I am the root and the offspring of David, ♦
I am the bright morning star.'
- 6 'Come!' say the Spirit and the Bride; ♦
'Come!' let each hearer reply.
- 7 Come forward, you who are thirsty, ♦
let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.

All To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb ♦
be blessing and honour and glory and might, for ever and ever. Amen.

All Surely I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Scripture Reading *Romans 15.4-13*

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. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 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, 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';
and again he says,
'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people';
and again,
'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him';
and again Isaiah says,
'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.'
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.

Gospel Canticle The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

***All* Lord Jesus, you are the one who is to come, the one whom we await with longing hearts.**

1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; ♦
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; ♦
the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.

3 He has mercy on those who fear him, ♦
from generation to generation.

4 He has shown strength with his arm ♦
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones ♦
and lifting up the lowly.

6 He has filled the hungry with good things ♦
and sent the rich away empty.

7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, ♦
to remember his promise of mercy,

8 The promise made to our ancestors, ♦
to Abraham and his children for ever.

***All* Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

***All* Lord Jesus, you are the one who is to come, the one whom we await with longing hearts.**

Prayers

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Awaiting his coming in glory,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

***All* Our Father, who art in heaven, ...**

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

Let us bless the Lord.

***All* Thanks be to God.**