

Evening Prayer Sunday, 14 December 2025
The Third Sunday of Advent

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Reveal among us the light of your presence

that we may behold your power and glory.

HYMN

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 12

You, O Lord, will watch over us.

1 Help me, Lord, for no one godly is left; ♦

the faithful have vanished from the whole human race.

2 They all speak falsely with their neighbour; ♦

they flatter with their lips, but speak from a double heart.

3 O that the Lord would cut off all flattering lips ♦

and the tongue that speaks proud boasts!

4 Those who say, 'With our tongue will we prevail; ♦

our lips we will use; who is lord over us?'

5 'Because of the oppression of the needy, and the groaning of the poor, ♦

I will rise up now,' says the Lord, 'and set them in the safety that they long for.'

6 The words of the Lord are pure words, ♦

like silver refined in the furnace and purified seven times in the fire.

7 You, O Lord, will watch over us ♦

and guard us from this generation for ever.

8 The wicked strut on every side, ♦

when what is vile is exalted by the whole human race.

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.

You, O Lord, will watch over us.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

- 1 The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' ♦
Corrupt are they, and abominable in their wickedness; there is no one that does good.
- 2 The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the children of earth, ♦
to see if there is anyone who is wise and seeks after God.
- 3 But every one has turned back; all alike have become corrupt: ♦
there is none that does good; no, not one.
- 4 Have they no knowledge, those evildoers, ♦
who eat up my people as if they ate bread and do not call upon the Lord?
- 5 There shall they be in great fear; ♦
for God is in the company of the righteous.
- 6 Though they would confound the counsel of the poor, ♦
yet the Lord shall be their refuge.
- 7 O that Israel's salvation would come out of Zion! ♦
When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, then will Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.
- 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.**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Canticle

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.

**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.**

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

Scripture Reading Isaiah 5.8-end

Ah, you who join house to house, who add field to field, until there is room for no one but you, and you are left to live alone in the midst of the land! The LORD of hosts has sworn in my hearing: Surely many houses shall be desolate, large and beautiful houses, without inhabitant. For ten acres of vineyard shall yield but one bath, and a homer of seed shall yield a mere ephah.

Ah, you who rise early in the morning in pursuit of strong drink, who linger in the evening to be inflamed by wine, whose feasts consist of lyre and harp, tambourine and

flute and wine, but who do not regard the deeds of the LORD, or see the work of his hands! Therefore my people go into exile without knowledge; their nobles are dying of hunger, and their multitude is parched with thirst.

Therefore Sheol has enlarged its appetite and opened its mouth beyond measure; the nobility of Jerusalem and her multitude go down, her throng and all who exult in her. People are bowed down, everyone is brought low, and the eyes of the haughty are humbled. But the LORD of hosts is exalted by justice, and the Holy God shows himself holy by righteousness. Then the lambs shall graze as in their pasture, fatlings and kids shall feed among the ruins.

Ah, you who drag iniquity along with cords of falsehood, who drag sin along as with cart-ropes, who say, 'Let him make haste, let him speed his work that we may see it; let the plan of the Holy One of Israel hasten to fulfilment, that we may know it!' Ah, you who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Ah, you who are wise in your own eyes, and shrewd in your own sight!

Ah, you who are heroes in drinking wine and valiant at mixing drink, who acquit the guilty for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of their rights! Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root will become rotten, and their blossom go up like dust;

for they have rejected the instruction of the LORD of hosts, and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against his people, and he stretched out his hand against them and struck them; the mountains quaked, and their corpses were like refuse in the streets. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.

He will raise a signal for a nation far away, and whistle for a people at the ends of the earth; Here they come, swiftly, speedily! None of them is weary, none stumbles, none slumbers or sleeps, not a loincloth is loose, not a sandal-thong broken; their arrows are sharp, all their bows bent, their horses' hoofs seem like flint, and their wheels like the whirlwind. Their roaring is like a lion, like young lions they roar; they growl and seize their prey, they carry it off, and no one can rescue. They will roar over it on that day, like the roaring of the sea. And if one looks to the land— only darkness and distress; and the light grows dark with clouds.

Gospel Canticle The Magnificat

**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.

**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.**

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

Prayers

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Awaiting his coming in glory,
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.**

The Conclusion

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

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.