

Sunday 6th December – The Second Sunday of Advent

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
and also with you.

Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make a path for our God in the desert.

Each valley will be exalted;
Every mountain and hill be laid low.

The crooked shall become straight
Rough places shall become plain.

The glory of Lord shall be revealed;
All the people shall see it together.

This is the promise of the Lord;
God's promise shall be fulfilled.

The Lighting of the Advent Ring

God our Father,
you spoke to the prophets of old of a Saviour who would bring peace.
You helped them to spread the joyful message of his coming kingdom.
Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
to share with those around us the good news of your power and love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.
Amen.

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Father eternal, giver of light and grace,

**we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought, in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.
Amen.**

Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy.

Collect

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again
as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.
Amen

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:8-13

8 I will listen to what the Lord God will say,
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,
that they turn not again to folly.
9 Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
10 Mercy and truth are met together,
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
11 Truth shall spring up from the earth
and righteousness look down from heaven.
12 The Lord will indeed give all that is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
13 Righteousness shall go before him
and direct his steps in the way.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever, world without end. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?
We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?
We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?
We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.
This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.**
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

**Holy, holy holy Lord,
God of power and God of might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
hosanna in the highest.**

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

Prayer after Communion

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming

that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us,
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal

That the coming of Christ may disperse all darkness,
Lord, have mercy.

That the birth of Christ will hallow all life,
Lord, have mercy.

That the love of Christ may be in every heart,
Lord, have mercy.

That the peace of Christ may fill the world,
Christ, have mercy.

That the descent of Christ may uplift all peoples,
Christ, have mercy.

That the humility of Christ may teach us gentleness,
Christ, have mercy.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing.....

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.