



The Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2017

8:30 and 10:30am — The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Page numbers refer to the Book of Common Prayer.

Hymns are from the Hymnal 1982.

Prelude *Wide Awake*

Phillip Nicolai, arr. James Mc Fadden
Nativity Ringers

The Word of God

Hymn 67 *Comfort, comfort ye my people*

Psalm 42

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

You come to your people and set them free.

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of
grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14, 16

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;**

**that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,**

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our
Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the
Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Holy God (Trisagion)

A. Archangelsky
See pew card

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.
Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.
Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Merciful 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.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, 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.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

We will read responsively by whole verse by side of the church; those on the side of the Narthex begin, and those on the side of the Angel triptych respond.

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.

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.

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

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

Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The Second Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 75 *There's a voice in the wilderness crying*
Ascension

The Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Mark (1:1-8).

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The 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.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Stephanie Allen

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

God of love, we pray for your church: For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Samuel and Anne, our bishops; for all lay and ordained ministers; and for all who seek you in the community of the faithful. Equip us with compassion and love, to carry out your work of reconciliation in the world. Señor, en tu misericordia, **atiende nuestra súplica.**

God of freedom, we pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world: For peace and unity across barriers of language, color, and creed; for elected and appointed leaders, that they would serve the common good. Inspire all people with courage to speak out against hatred, to actively resist evil. Unite the human family in bonds of love. Señor, en tu misericordia, **atiende nuestra súplica.**

God of justice, we pray for the earth, your creation entrusted to our care: For the animals and birds, the mountains and oceans, and all parts of your creation that have no voice of their own. Stir up in us a thirst for justice that protects the earth and all its resources, that we may leave to our children's children the legacy of beauty and abundance that you have given us. Señor, en tu misericordia, **atiende nuestra súplica.**

God of peace, we pray for this community: For our local leaders; for our schools and markets; for our neighborhoods and workplaces. Kindle in every heart a desire for equality, respect, and opportunity for all. Give us courage to strive for justice and peace among all people, beginning here at home. Señor, en tu misericordia, **atiende nuestra súplica.**

God of mercy, we pray for all in any kind of need or trouble: For those whose lives are closely linked with ours, and those connected to us as part of the human family. For refugees and prisoners; for the sick and suffering, the lonely and despairing; for those facing violence; for all held down by prejudice or injustice. Awaken in us compassion and humility of spirit, as we seek and serve Christ in all persons. Señor, en tu misericordia, **atiende nuestra súplica.**

God of grace, we pray for those who have died: For the faithful in every generation who have worked for justice; for prophets who called us to racial reconciliation; for martyrs who died because of hatred; and for all the communion of saints. Make us faithful to your call to proclaim your Good News, by word and example, and bring us at last into the glorious company of the saints in light. Señor, en tu misericordia, **atiende nuestra súplica.**

In the Anglican and Diocesan cycles of prayer, we pray for the Diocese of Western North Carolina and the Episcopal Church. Señor, en tu misericordia, **atiende nuestra súplica.**

We pray for those who work for the common good, especially, Sam, Sean, David, Mark, Rick, Elizabeth, and Marcus, and those we name now. Señor, en tu misericordia, **atiende nuestra súplica.**

We pray for the sick in our community, especially Charly, Barbara, Don, Julia, Donna, Barbara, Susanna, Gene, Jack, Maxine, Karen, Marion, Bill, Don, Ernstein, and Ron, and those we name now. Señor, en tu misericordia, **atiende nuestra súplica.**

We pray for our friends, family, and neighbors, especially James, Linda, Charlotte, Matthew, Vivian, Jason, Eric, Allyson, Cristi, and Hoke. We pray for Brenda, Marcy, John, Sunny, Tony, George, Wayne, and Don. Send healing to Bennett, Patricia, Sarah, Kirk, Casey, Carole, and Rob. We pray for Marion, David, Terri, Lemuel, Kean, Jim, Brian, Jamie, and Ray, and those we name now. Señor, en tu misericordia, **atiende nuestra súplica.**

We pray for those expecting a child, especially Robert and Brianna, Jenny and Randy, and Licia and Jonathan, and those we name now. We give thanks for the birth of Gabriel Alexander Judson, son of Michelle and Roy and grandson of Evelyn and Richard. Señor, en tu misericordia, **atiende nuestra súplica.**

We pray for all who have died, especially Anna Wood Ragland and Reid Sinclair, and those we name now. Señor, en tu misericordia, **atiende nuestra súplica.**

Hear our prayers, Holy God. Breathe your Spirit over us and all the earth, that barriers would crumble and divisions cease. Make us more fully your co-healers of the broken world. Help us to become beloved community with one another, uniting us with all people in bonds of love, that the whole earth and all its peoples may be at peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory *Savior of the Nations, Come*
Nativity Ringers

arr. Linda R. Lamb

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer 2, *Enriching Our Worship*)

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 our thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

Holy, holy, holy (Sanctus)

R. Proulx
See pew card

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

At 8:30am: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

grant us your peace.

At 10:30am: *Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)*

D. Hurd

See pew card

The Communion

Hymn 309 *O Food to pilgrims given*

O Welt, ich muss dich lassen

Hymn 343 *Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless*

St. Agnes

The Postcommunion Prayer

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and
cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one
another; and you have made us one with all your people in
heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your
Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

Processional Hymn 65 *Prepare the way, O Zion*

Bereden väg för Herran

Dismissal

Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Voluntary on "Bereden väg för Herran"*

Manz

Reflection Questions

1. "proclaiming a baptism of repentance..." So all we have to do is change our way of thinking so that we can think without thinking, know without knowing, be without being.
2. Who among us can know with certainty that we are doing God's will?
3. Jesus is a model for living, not an object of worship. He never said "worship me."

Prepare the way, O Zion
Tune: *Bereden väg för Herran*

This Advent hymn has been in regular use for almost two hundred years in the Church of Sweden. It was written by Frans Mikael Franzen and published in a trial collection of hymns. It was imported into the United States through the *Lutheran Service Book and Hymnal*. The text is built on Isaiah 40: 3-5: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord" and the narrative of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem in Matthew 21.

The tune *Bereden väg för Herran* first appeared in the years 1693 and 1694 and is considered a Swedish variant of a German folk tune. Harmonization of the tune, which was not identified in *Hymnal 1982*, is by Otto Olsson for the 1921 Swedish hymn book and was preserved in succeeding Swedish hymnbooks of the years 1939, 1986, and 1987.

From: *The Hymnal 1982 Companion*
Raymond Glover, Editor

We thank the following people for their service today:

Vestry Representative Harlan Hagge
Altar Guild Brianna Joines, Robert Joines,
..... Susan Jordan, Carol Smith, Pat Watson
Altar Flowers Emily Phillips
Linens Susan Kelley

8:30

Greeter Kathy Linthicum
Lectors Chris Chiavacci, Diane Rietman
LEM Diane Rietman
Usher Howard Hardy

10:30

Crucifer Melanie Altenkirch
Banner Landon Gaddy
Torches Michael Marotta, Owen Clark
Greeter Sue Young
Lectors Steve Wooden, Sam Taylor
LEMs Steve Wooden, Nancy Reed
Ushers John Oldham, Sam Wesonga

Attendance at last week's services was:
8:30am service: 54 10:30am service: 192

Last week's Stewardship info:

Offering for operating budget: \$ 14,334
Budgeted weekly income: \$ 8,664

Restoring God's Earth: A Year of Personal Action

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal." (Matthew 6:19-20)

DECEMBER: Shrinking Consumerism for Christmas and Beyond

Americans throw away 25% more trash from Thanksgiving to Christmas than the rest of the year. Advent is the time we prepare for the joy of God entering the world as a baby. It is a beautiful reminder to us that God loved the world enough to be part of the created world with us! It also can be a reminder of how we treat the earth that God loves. If every family reused just two feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon *saved* could tie a bow around the entire planet. What if we tied a bow around our relationships and experiences to show thanks to God rather than tying ribbon around boxes? If we each sent one card less, we'd save 50,000 cubic yards of paper. Nearly half the world's toys are in America, despite making up just over 3% of the global population of children. Let's show our love of God and our neighbor with *less stuff* and more love.

Week 1

- Give experiences instead of material things: tickets to the movies, theater, zoo, or memberships to a museum; reusable items like water bottles and homemade gifts; electronic reading like e-books and magazines
- Call companies and ask to be removed from holiday mail

Week 2

- Email your holiday cards instead of using paper; explain *why* in your email
- Buy a living Christmas tree and plant it, or an organic Christmas tree

Bonus Action!

Commit yourself to a moment of daily prayer seeking contentment through doing the work of God and not accumulating goods; of moving from a culture of consumerism to a culture of conversation and sharing.