

The Second Sunday of



ADVENT



Second Candle - The Candle of Peace & Preparation

The Prophets Who Foretold the Birth of Jesus

Leader: Today we observe the Second Sunday of Advent. Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope. This morning, we light our second Advent candle symbolizing God's peace and the preparation of our hearts for the coming Messiah.

We light the candle of Hope once again as we remember that Jesus is the hope of all the world in every age and generation.

(A person lights the first blue candle again)

The prophet Isaiah described a day when the lion and the lamb would lie down together and there would no longer be any hurt or destruction on God's holy mountain (Isaiah 11:6-9). This peace would be ushered in as God's people amended their lives and prepared their hearts to welcome the coming Messiah.

Isaiah instructed the people to listen for signs that the day of the Lord was approaching. This morning, we set our own hearts toward being transformed by Isaiah's call to God's people:

"A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'" (Isaiah 40:3)

(A person lights the second blue candle)

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of these candles, we celebrate the hope and peace we have in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people. Give peace in our hearts this Advent season. We ask for the Holy Spirit to be with us as we wait for your second coming. Help us today, and every day, to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other and all the world. We ask this in the name of the One who was born in Bethlehem to fulfill your promise of salvation. *Amen.*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

*BCP – The Book of Common Prayer, H – The Hymnal 1982
S – Service Music in The Hymnal, A – Alleluia III Songbook*

Prelude

Dr. Elizabeth French

Advent Wreath Prayer and Candle Lighting

Processional Hymn

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

H 75

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod: Prepare in the desert a highway for our God! The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low; make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!

O Zion, that bring-est good tidings, get thee up to the heights and sing! Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King. Like the flowers of the field they perish, like grass our works decay, the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away;

But the word of our God endureth, the arm of the Lord is strong! He stands in the midst of nations, and he will right the wrong. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, the lambs he'll gently hold; to pastures of peace he'll lead them, and bring safe to his fold.

The Opening Sentences

BCP 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen

Celebrant

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.*

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; you are worthy of praise;

Glory to you for the radiance of your Holy Name; we will praise you and highly exalt you forever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; we will praise you and highly exalt you forever. *Amen*

The Collect

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 forever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of the roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

BCP 685

- ¹ Give the King you justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son.
- ² That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice.
- ³ That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- ⁴ He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- ⁶ He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- ⁷ In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- ¹⁸ Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- ¹⁹ And blessed be his glorious Name forever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instructions, 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 God and the 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 promise 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 people 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

The Lord shall come and not be slow

H 462, v 1-3

The Lord will come and not be slow, his footsteps cannot err; before him
righteousness shall go, his royal harbinger.

Truth from the earth, like to a flower, shall bud and blossom show; and justice, from
her heavenly bower, look down on us below.

Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might, this wicked earth redress; for thou are he
who shalt by right, the nations all possess.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Linda Suzanne Borgen

The Nicene Creed *All say together*

BCP 358

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.

The Prayers of the People, Form IV

BCP 388

Deacon or Other leader

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in truth, live
together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace;
that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All say together

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.

Absolution

BCP 360

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.*

The Peace

BCP 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

BCP 376

The Priest says Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

*(Offerings may be mailed, given to the church office, or given securely online at
www.stthomasgreenville.org)*

Offertory Meditation

Dr. Elizabeth French

Hymn at the Presentation

Doxology

H 380 v 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;

O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

Celebrant and People.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and 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.

Then the Celebrant continues:

We, give thanks to you, God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days, you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil; and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night before he dies for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

Then the Celebrant continues:

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with[_____]and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *Amen.*

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

Celebrant and People

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

BCP 364

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Ministration of Communion

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and people

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of you Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Communion Hymns

Choir and Congregation

Seek Ye First

A 139

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you, Allelu, Alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you, Allelu, Alleluia.

We shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God, Allelu, Alleluia.

Refrain

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

A 104

Refrain

Just a closer walk with Thee: Grant it, Jesus, is my plea. Daily walking close to Thee; let it be, dear Lord, let it be

I am weak but Thou art strong, Jesus, keep me from all wrong. I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, dear Lord, close to Thee.

Through this world of toils and snares; if I falter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my burden share? None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more. Guide me gently, safely o'er, to Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

A 81

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God sent the stars to give light to the world the star of my life is Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear sun of the righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

Refrain

In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Prayer for Lay Eucharistic Visitor

Celebrant In the name of this congregation and our Lord Jesus Christ, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, so that those to whom you go share with us in this Holy Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People: For we who are many are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup.

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP 366

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant blesses the congregation saying

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Dismissal

BCP 366

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

Recessional Hymn

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

H 65

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

He brings God rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rules embrace. His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.

Refrain

Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Postlude

Dr. Elizabeth French