A Service of the Word
for the Second Sunday of Advent

6th December 2020

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Preparation

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

This is the day that the Lord has made.
All  Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God’s holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.
On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh. 
Awake and harken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every breast from sin; 
make straight the way for God within; 
prepare we in our hearts a home, 
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, lord, 
our refuge, and our great reward; 
without thy grace we waste away, 
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, 
and bid the fallen sinner stand; 
shine forth, and let thy light restore earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent doth thy people free, 
whom with the father we adore and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Charles Coffin, trans. John Chandler 
Tune: WINCHESTER NEW
Jesus says, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.’
So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

All Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the Father of all mercies
hear the cry of our hearts,
refine us with holy fire,
and restore us to life in his service;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen
Psalm 85.1-2, 8–13

1 Lord, you were gracious to your land; •
   you restored the fortunes of Jacob
2 You forgave the offence of your people •
   And covered all their sins.

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 for ever. Amen.
Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

2 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.

3 A voice cries out:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 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.

5 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

6 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.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

9 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!”

10 See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

11 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.

This is the word of the Lord

All  Thanks be to God.
The Second Reading
Mark 1.1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
   “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
       who will prepare your way;
3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
   ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
       make his paths straight,’”

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 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. 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 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. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

The Sermon
The Reverend Shirley Holder

www.GreatStMarys.org
We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
The Prayers
Led by Andrew Dobson

The Collect

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.

All Amen

The Lord’s Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All 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 Closing Hymn

O comfort my people and calm all their fear,
and tell them the time of salvation draws near.
O tell them I come to remove all their shame,
That they may for ever give praise to my name.

Proclaim to the cities of Judah my word:
that gentle yet strong is the hand of the Lord.
I rescue the captives, my people defend,
and bring them to justice and joy without end.

All mountains and hills shall become as a plain,
for vanished are mourning and hunger and pain.
And never again shall come war unto you.
Behold I come quickly to make all things new.

Chrysogonus Waddell (1930–2008)
Tune ST. DENIO
May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

All Amen.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

We share with one another Christ’s peace, which transcends all distance.

After our service, please join us for a Zoom coffee hour!
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91808611088
Password: 1205
Meeting ID: 918 0861 1088

Are you getting our weekly newsletter?
You can sign up online at http://tiny.cc/eMagnificat

Details about Advent & Christmas can be found on our website, www.GreatStMarys.org