

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT      6 December 2020

## The Holy Communion

### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn Comfort, comfort all my people (refrain)

*Comfort, comfort all my people  
with the comfort of my word.  
Speak it tender to my people:  
All your sins are taken away.*

1. Though your tears be rivers running,  
though your tears be an ocean full,  
though you cry with the hurt of living,  
comfort, comfort.

Every valley shall be lifted,  
every mountain shall be low,  
every rough place will be smoother:  
comfort, comfort.

2. Though your eyes see only darkness,  
though your eyes can see no light,  
though your eyes see pain and sorrow:  
comfort, comfort.

Every night will have its morning,  
every pain will have an end,  
every burden will be lightened:  
comfort, comfort.

## **Acclamation**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
**whose mercy endures for ever.**

## **Greeting**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **Sentence**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together. (*Luke 3.4; Isaiah 40.5a*)

## **Prayer of Preparation**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleans 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.**

## **CONFESSION**

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

*Silence may be kept*

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

## **Confession and Absolution**

**Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you  
in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:  
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Kyrie eleison  
Christe eleison  
Kyrie eleison**

Trisagion  
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

## THE COLLECT

*Let us pray*

Merciful God,  
you 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 MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**First Reading** – A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (40.1-11)

- <sup>1</sup> Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.
- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:  
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord ,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;

surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand for ever.

<sup>9</sup> 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!'

<sup>10</sup> See, the Lord God comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

Hear the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Psalm 85. (1-2, 8-13 APBA p. 311)

1 O Lord, you were gracious to your land:  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**2 You forgave the iniquity of your people:**  
and covered all their sin.

8 I will hear what the Lord God will speak:  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful ones, whose hearts are turned to him.

**9 Truly his salvation is near to those that fear him:**  
and his glory shall dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth are met together:  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;

**11 Truth shall flourish out of the earth:**  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 The Lord will also give us all that is good:  
and our land shall yield its plenty.

**13 For righteousness shall go before him:**  
and tread the path before his feet.

### **Gospel Reading**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight” ’,

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

For the Gospel of the Lord,  
**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Sermon**

## **Silence**

## **Introduction to Prayers**

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has promised that you will hear us when we ask in faith receive the prayers we offer.

## **Prayer Response**

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

## **Prayers may conclude**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith  
we may by your grace receive,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **THE GREETING OF PEACE**

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

**We meet in his name and share his peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

### **OFFERTORY**

Hymn The King of love my Shepherd is

1. The king of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;

I nothing lack if I am his  
and he mine for ever.

2. Where streams of living water flow  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow  
with food celestial feedeth.

3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home rejoicing brought me.

4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

5. Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;

and O what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6. And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never:  
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house for ever.  
Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory  
and for the service of your kingdom.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary

and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross

and rising to new life,

he offered the one true sacrifice for sin

and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

We thank you that when he shall come again

in power and great triumph to judge the world,

we may with joy behold his appearing,

and in confidence stand before him  
who redeems us from sin and death  
and makes us heirs of everlasting life.  
Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Merciful God, we thank you  
for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and wine,  
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.  
On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'  
After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'  
*In faith we acclaim you, O Christ:*

**We remember his death on the cross.**

**We proclaim the resurrection to new life.**

**We await Christ's coming in glory.**

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:

proclaiming his offering of himself

made once for all upon the cross,

his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,

and looking for his coming again,

we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,

his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice

for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,

unite us in the body of your Son

and bring us with all your people

into the joy of your eternal kingdom;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

with whom, and in whom,

in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

we worship you, Father,

in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power**

**are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sins of the world.  
Happy are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

### **Lamb of God,**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us your peace.

## **THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

### **Prayer after Communion**

God for whom we wait,  
we thank you that you have fed us  
with the bread of life  
and the cup of salvation.  
As we joyfully await your Son,  
keep us ever watchful  
that we may be ready to stand before him  
on the day of his coming.

**Most loving God,  
you send us into the world you love.  
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage  
in the power of your Spirit.**

Hymn O Jesus, I have promised

1. O Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou forever near me,  
My Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
If Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If Thou wilt be my Guide.
2. Oh, let me feel Thee near me;  
The world ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
The tempting sounds I hear;  
My foes are ever near me,  
Around me and within;  
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,  
And shield my soul from sin.

3. Oh, let me see Thy footmarks,  
And in them plant mine own;  
My hope to follow duly  
in Thy strength alone.  
Oh, guide me, call me, draw me,  
Uphold me to the end;  
And then to rest receive me,  
My Saviour and my Friend.

### **Blessing**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**