
2nd Sunday in Advent

December 10, 2023

Opening Hymn #701

Prepare the Royal Highway

1. Prepare the royal highway,
The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
Foretold in sacred story:

Refrain:

Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!

2. God's people, see him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! [Refrain]

3. Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands will bow before Him;
Their voices join your singing: [Refrain]

4. His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding: [Refrain]

Invocation

*P: We worship today in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.*

C ♪: Amen.

Confession & Absolution

*P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and
confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the
name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.*

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C ♪: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C ♪: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sins.

*P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners
confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and
that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed.
Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and
imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**P & C O most merciful God, who has given Thine only-
begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His
sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy
Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will
and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace
we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our
Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C ♪ Amen.

Introit

P: Restore us, O God;

C: let your face shine, that we may be saved!

P: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

C: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

P: You brought a vine out of Egypt;

C: it took deep root and filled the land.

P: Restore us, O God of hosts;

C: let your face shine, that we may be saved!

P: Restore us, O God;

C: let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Gloria Patri

C ♪ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Kyrie

C ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Advent 2

P: *We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.*

C: **We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.**

P: *We hear his call to repent.*

C: **We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.**

P: *Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.*

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

Two Advent candles are lit.

The Bethlehem Candle is symbolic of the preparations being made to receive and to cradle the Christ-Child. [Is. 40:1-11]

(To the Tune of “Away in a Manger”)

**This world sits in darkness,
Nor cares for the light,
In sin we were wandering,
And cold was the night.
Let all who’ve discovered
The light of God’s face
Repent, be delivered
By God’s saving grace.**

The Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C ♪: And with thy spirit.

The Collect for the Day

P: Let us pray..... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ♪: Amen.

The First Reading – Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every 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. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ⁶A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” ¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 85

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Antiphon – Surely God’s salvation is near to those who fear Him.

Lord, You have been favorable | to Your land;*

You have brought back the captivity of | Jacob.

You have forgiven the iniquity of Your | people;*

You have covered | all their sin.

You have taken away | all Your wrath;*

You have turned from the fierceness of Your | anger.

Antiphon – Surely God’s salvation is near to those who fear Him.

Mercy and truth have met to- | gether;*

Righteousness and peace have kissed each | other.

Truth shall spring out | of the earth,*

And righteousness shall look down from | heaven.

Yes, the Lord will give | what is good;*

And our land will yield its | increase.

Righteousness will go be- | fore Him,*

And shall make His footsteps our | pathway.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Antiphon – Surely God’s salvation is near to those who fear Him.

The Second Reading – 2 Peter 3:8–14

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

The Gradual

P: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C: Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

P: Behold, your king is coming to you;

C: righteous and having salvation.

P: Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: From the house of the Lord we bless you. Hallelujah!

The Triple Hallelujah

Sing – Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The Gospel Reading – Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” ⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Confession of Faith *The Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of the Day #63
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings.

2. Then cleansed by ev'ry Christian breast
And furnished for so great a Guest.
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

3. For Thou art our Salvation, Lord,
Our Refuge, and our great Reward.
Without Thy grace our souls must fade
And wither like a flower decayed.

4. Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in every place.

5. All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore
And Holy Ghost forevermore.

Sermon Text – Isaiah 40:1-11

Sermon

***You Are Prepared through Repentance for the
Coming of the Lord***

Offertory

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved! As You led the people of Israel like a flock, so now by Your Son lead us into straight paths. Bring us out of the bondage of our sins, and plant us securely in Your eternal promises.

O Christian, firmly hold this gift

P: God of all comfort, Your Word alone endures forever. The nations of the world come and go before You, even kings and rulers are like grass before Your breath. Preserve us from placing our trust in princes and mortal men. Give us rulers who will rule after Your good pleasure, keeping order and protecting life, that we may live peaceably in godly quietness and honesty.

And give God thanks forever!

P: Father, we know that You are not slow in keeping Your promises. We thank You for Your patience. Do not take Your Spirit from us when we stray from Your commandments, but convict us of our sin and draw us back to You in repentance.

It gives the power to uplift

P: Gracious God, You sent John the Baptist to herald the coming Messiah and proclaim a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. In these latter days, You send pastors to

proclaim the same repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and through them lead Your people to trust in Your salvation. Look with kindness upon all pastors, that they may be diligent and faithful heralds of Your beloved Son.

In all that you endeavor.

P: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, to our prayers [*especially for _____*]. Give healing, courage and perseverance to all who cry to You, that they may find comfort in Your enduring Word and the certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Christ.

When nothing else revives your soul,

P: Lord, as we in the Church on earth wait for the coming of Your Son, we remember all the saints who have gone before us and now rest in Your presence. Keep us safe in Your arms until You gather Your people together in the new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Your Baptism stands and makes you whole

P: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

And then in death completes you.

The Lord's Prayer

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 forever and ever. Amen.

Sermon Hymn #61
Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

1. Comfort, comfort, ye My people,
Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over.

2. Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.

3. Hark, the Herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance
Since the Kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

4. Make ye straight what long was crooked,
Make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord

Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.

Prayer

P: ...who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

C ♪: Amen.

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C ♪: Amen, Amen, Amen.

Closing Hymn #761 In You Is Gladness

1. In You is gladness
Amid all sadness,
Jesus, Sunshine of my heart.
By You are given
The gifts of heaven;
You the true Redeemer are.
Our souls are waking;
Our bonds are breaking.
Who trusts You surely
Has built securely
And stands forever. Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining
To see Your shining,
Dying or living
To You are cleaving
Now and forever. Alleluia!

2. If He is ours,
We fear no powers,
Not of earth nor sin or death.
He sees and blesses
In worst distresses;
He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story
Tell of His glory
With hearts and voices;
All heav'n rejoices
In Him forever. Alleluia!
We shout for gladness,
Win over sadness,
Love Him and praise Him
And still shall raise Him
Glad hymns forever. Alleluia!

Silent Prayer

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