

*Evening Prayer, 8 December 2024, The Second Sunday of Advent*

**Preparation**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Reveal among us the light of your presence  
**that we may behold your power and glory.**

***HYMN***

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

***Silence is kept.***

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,  
so may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts  
and set us free to sing your praise  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**The Word of God**

***Psalmody***

*God alone is judge.*

1 We give you thanks, O God, we give you thanks, ♦  
for your name is near, as your wonderful deeds declare.

2 'I will seize the appointed time; ♦  
I, the Lord, will judge with equity.

3 'Though the earth reels and all that dwell in her, ♦  
it is I that hold her pillars steady.

4 'To the boasters I say, "Boast no longer," ♦  
and to the wicked, "Do not lift up your horn.

5 ' "Do not lift up your horn on high; ♦  
do not speak with a stiff neck." '

6 For neither from the east nor from the west, ♦  
nor yet from the wilderness comes exaltation.

7 But God alone is judge; ♦  
he puts down one and raises up another.

8 For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, ♦  
well mixed and full of foaming wine.

9 He pours it out for all the wicked of the earth; ♦  
they shall drink it, and drain the dregs.

10 But I will rejoice for ever ♦  
and make music to the God of Jacob.

11 All the horns of the wicked will I break, ♦  
but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

**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.**

*God alone is judge.*

*Psalm 76*

*The Lord has made fast his throne for judgement.*

1 In Judah God is known; ♦  
his name is great in Israel.

2 At Salem is his tabernacle, ♦  
and his dwelling place in Zion.

3 There broke he the flashing arrows of the bow, ♦  
the shield, the sword and the weapons of war.

4 In the light of splendour you appeared, ♦  
glorious from the eternal mountains.

5 The boastful were plundered; they have slept their sleep; ♦  
none of the warriors can lift their hand.

6 At your rebuke, O God of Jacob, ♦  
both horse and chariot fell stunned.

7 Terrible are you in majesty: ♦  
who can stand before your face when you are angry?

8 You caused your judgement to be heard from heaven; ♦  
the earth trembled and was still,

9 When God arose to judgement, ♦  
to save all the meek upon earth.

10 You crushed the wrath of the peoples ♦  
and bridled the wrathful remnant.

11 Make a vow to the Lord your God and keep it; ♦  
let all who are round about him bring gifts  
to him that is worthy to be feared.

12 He breaks down the spirit of princes ♦  
and strikes terror in the kings of the earth.

**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.**

*The Lord has made fast his throne for judgement.*

## ***Canticle***

### ***A Song of the Spirit***

**Surely I am coming soon.**

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

1 'Behold, I am coming soon', says the Lord,  
'and bringing my reward with me, ♦  
to give to everyone according to their deeds.

2 'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, ♦  
the beginning and the end.'

3 Blessed are those who do God's commandments,  
that they may have the right to the tree of life, ♦  
and may enter into the city through the gates.

4 'I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, ♦  
with this testimony for all the churches.

5 'I am the root and the offspring of David, ♦  
I am the bright morning star.'

6 'Come!' say the Spirit and the Bride; ♦  
'Come!' let each hearer reply.

7 Come forward, you who are thirsty, ♦  
let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.

*Revelation 22.12-14, 16, 17*

**To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb ♦  
be blessing and honour and glory and might,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Surely I am coming soon.**

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

### ***Scripture Reading***

*Luke 1.1-25*

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your

wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.'

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

### ***Gospel Canticle***

#### ***The Magnificat***

**Lord Jesus, you are the one who is to come,  
the one whom we await with longing hearts.**

1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; ♦  
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; ♦  
the Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name.

3 He has mercy on those who fear him, ♦  
from generation to generation.

4 He has shown strength with his arm ♦  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones ♦  
and lifting up the lowly.

6 He has filled the hungry with good things ♦  
and sent the rich away empty.

7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, ♦  
to remember his promise of mercy,

8 The promise made to our ancestors, ♦  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

*Luke 1.46-55*

**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.**

**Lord Jesus, you are the one who is to come,  
the one whom we await with longing hearts.**

### **Prayers**

#### ***The Collect of the day is said***

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.

**Amen.**

#### ***The Lord's Prayer is said***

Awaiting his coming in glory,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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 Conclusion**

May the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.  
**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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