

2nd Sunday of Advent Year B

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Introit

The congregation sings the following through three times as the bible is processed into the church:



Pre - - pare ye the way of the Lord.

Pre - - pare ye the way of the Lord.

Three times through

Blessing and lighting of the Advent candles

Christ came to bring salvation, and has promised to come again.

Come, Lord Jesus.

That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love,

Come, Lord Jesus.

That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin and injustice,

Come, Lord Jesus.

That this wreath may remind us to prepare for Christ's arrival,

Come, Lord Jesus.

Listen to this prophecy of Isaiah:

A voice cries out in the desert:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

Make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.'

See, the Lord comes with might.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms
and carry them close to his heart.

Is. 40.3, 10-11

The second Advent candle is lit as the congregation sings the first and second verses of the following song:

Song TiS 286 'Light one candle'

When the music has finished, the minister says:

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Peace.

***May the light sent by God shine in the darkness
to show us the way of salvation.***

Greeting and introduction to theme

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be always with you.

And also with you.

News and notices of the community

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Song 'The Grass Withers'

*The grass withers and the flowers fade
The grass withers and the flowers fade
The grass withers and the flowers fade
But the word of our Lord lasts forever and ever*

The word of our God lasts forever.

by Robin Mann

2 Peter 3.8-15

Mark 1.1-8 – *as children's story*

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet,
a light to our path.

Scripture Isaiah 40.1-11
 Luke 1.68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
you have come to your people and set them free.
You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of your servant David.

Through your holy prophets,
you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous before you all the days of our life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Lord, may your word ever live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory.

Homily

Affirmation of faith *The Nicene Creed*

***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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.***

***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,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who 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.*

Hymn TiS 647 'Comfort, comfort all my people'

Prayers of the people

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Offertory

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us our spiritual drink.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this money to share,
an offering of love that your love might be shared more widely.
It will become, for this community, a sign of your care.

Invitation and prayer of confession

Christ welcomes to his table all who have died with him in baptism and been raised to live with him in glory.

In a moment of quiet, let us confess to God our fear, our sin, our lack of faith, knowing that God loves and welcomes us . . .

After a minute of silence, the 'Lord have mercy' is sung responsively from SA 100 a:

Lord, have mercy: *Lord, have mercy.*
Christ, have mercy: *Christ, have mercy.*
Lord, have mercy: *Lord, have mercy.*

Assurance of forgiveness

Listen to the word of the Apostle:
The Lord is not slow to keep his promise of salvation, as some think of slowness. Rather, the Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but for all to come to repentance . . . Therefore, regard the patience of the Lord as salvation.

2 Peter 3. 9, 15

Christ has this word of grace, then, for everyone responds to God's patience with the desire to be done with the old life and embrace the new that Christ has made possible: 'Your sins are forgiven.'

Thanks be to God!

The peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be always with you,
and also with you.

A sign of peace is shared.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

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.

We bless you, O God, for you are the creator. You formed us in your image and breathed the spirit of life into us. You delivered our forebears from captivity, made covenant with us, and spoke to us through the prophets who looked for that day
when justice shall roll down like waters
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,
when nation shall no longer take up sword against nation
nor learn for war anymore.

Therefore, with the angels and archangels who surround us, with nomads, apostles and saints, with earth, sea and sky, and the whole creation, we sing the hymn of unending praise:

SA 100 c & d

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!**

Blessed are you, O God, who sets the table of creation and invites us to feast with you in a cosmic celebration of peace and joy. Jesus came singing a song of justice which scatters the proud, pulling down the mighty from their towers of arrogance, and exalting the poor and the humble in their stead. Through Jesus you came to fill the hungry with good things, and to send the rich away empty. Through his baptism of suffering, death and resurrection, you gave hope to all who walk in darkness. By his coming you gave us the eternal sign of Emmanuel: a God who is *with* us.

Blessed is our brother Jesus, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. On the night of his betrayal he took bread, broke it, and shared it with his friends saying:

‘Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Whenever you eat it, remember me.’

In the same way, after they had eaten, Jesus took a cup, gave thanks, and shared it with them saying:

‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many that your sins may be forgiven. Do this, as often as you drink it, to remember me.’

So, as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died;
Christ is risen;**

Christ will come again

Therefore, here in this place, we celebrate the life that death could not hold, the life that Jesus has shared with his community through the centuries and shares with us now. Here we offer and present ourselves to you, most Holy God, a living sacrifice in union with Christ's sacrifice for us. As we eat this bread and drink this cup may we ever live in Christ, and he in us.

So come, Holy Spirit, come. Make of this bread the body of Christ. Make of the cup his blood. Make of this gathered community the real presence of Christ for the world: living your prayer and praying your life until earth and heaven are reconciled and all are free as Christ is free.

The Lord's prayer

***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.***

Breaking of the bread

Look, Christ is broken for the sin of the world.

Look, Christ is poured out for the healing of the world.
Holy things for holy people.
Glory be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion

Those assisting with communion come forward to receive. When all is ready, the minister says:

Let us receive what we are. Let us become what we receive.

The body of Christ.

The congregation comes forward to receive. As this happens we sing the 'Lamb of God' from SA 100 e:

***Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.
Grant us peace. Grant us peace.***

Prayer after communion

As you have nourished us with bread and wine, O God, so may we become nourishment for others. Takes our bodies, our minds and our spirits, and make of us effective signs and symbols of Christ's coming. For we ask it in Jesus' name, Amen.

SENDING OUT OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Litany of mission

Lord, give us courage to prepare for your coming.

'The Grass Withers' is from *All Together* collection, published in Adelaide by Open Book.

When we are tempted to busyness,

slow our bodies and still our hearts.

When we are tempted to enrich ourselves with *things*,

give us a longing for the riches of your grace.

When we are tempted to blow our savings

on people who lack for nothing,

give us hearts to serve the poor and the destitute.

When we are tempted to celebrate Christmas too early,

show us the joy of prayer and of waiting.

Lord, give us courage,

Christ, give us faith.

Hymn of mission TiS 270 'On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry'

Blessing and dismissal

As you go from here, the blessing of God is upon you:

the blessing of the gentle Father,

the blessing of Mary's child,

and the blessing of the Spirit.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Recessional

This service was written by Garry Deverell. It may be used freely with acknowledgement. <http://www.deverell.net>.