

Second Sunday of Advent

The Advent Seasonal Collect:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Sunday Collect:

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak 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.

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

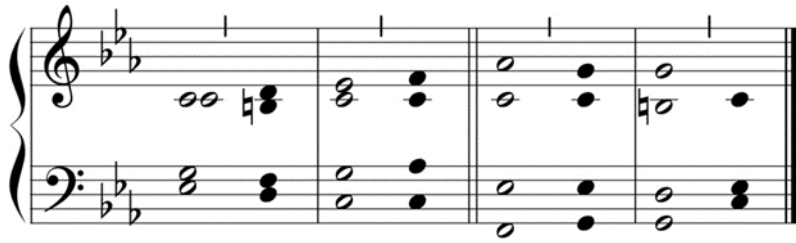
A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85 (Prayer for peace and justice)

Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945)



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- 1 Lord, you have been gracious to your / land; |
you have turned away the captivity of / Jacob. ||
- 2 You have forgiven the offense of your / people |
and covered all their / sins. ††
- 3 You have taken away all your dis / pleasure |
and turned yourself from your wrathful indig / nation. ||
- 4 Restore us then, O God our / Savior, |
and let your anger cease from / us. ††
- 5 Will you be displeased at us for / ever, |
and will you stretch out your wrath from one generation to a / nother? ||
- 6 Will you not turn again and / quicken us, |
that your people may rejoice in / you? ††
- 7 Show us your mercy, O / Lord, |
and grant us your sal / vation. ||
- 8 I will hearken to what the Lord God will / say, |
for he shall speak peace unto his people, and to his saints, that they turn not a /
gain. ††
- 9 For his salvation is near to those who / fear him, |
that glory may dwell in our / land. ||

10 Mercy and truth have met to / gether; |
righteousness and peace have kissed each / other. ††

11 Truth shall flourish out of the / earth, |
and righteousness shall look down from / heaven. ||

12 Indeed, the Lord shall show / goodness, |
and our land shall give its in /crease. ††

(repeat second half of chant)

13 Righteousness shall go be / fore him, |
and he shall direct his going in the / way. ††

Glory be to the Father, and to the / Son |
And to the Holy / Spirit ||
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever / shall be, |
World without end, A / men. ††

Second Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8-18

But 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. The 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. But 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.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting 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! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. You, therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

The Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,
the voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And 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.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And 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. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ