

St. Luke’s Gondola Point

MORNING PRAYER

ADVENT II – December 6, 2023

[Un-bolded words are said by one, **Bolded words** can be said by all.]

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

(This liturgy was compiled and written by the Rev. Matthew Kozlowski, 2015)

The Second Sunday of Advent - *Peace*

Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is *Hope*, the second candle is *Peace*.

[**The candle is lit.**]

Colossians 3:15 – “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.”

Let us pray: **“Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls. Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. Amen.”**

Advent Hymn: *O Come O Come Emmanuel* (Verse 7, altered)

*O come, Desire of nations, bind / all peoples in one heart and mind*

*Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease. / Fill the whole world with Heaven’s peace*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! / Emmanuel*

*Shall come to thee / O Israel*

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. All flesh shall see the salvation of God *Luke 3.4, 6*

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: *Wait For The Lord Whose Day Is Near* (CP #94)

**MORNING PRAYER**

Lord, open our lips,

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Will you not give us life again,

**That your people may rejoice in you?**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**as it was in the beginning, is now,** **and will be for ever. Amen.** **Alleluia!**

The kingdom of God is at hand: **O come, let us worship.**

**Invitatory** *- Psalm 67*

May God be merciful to us and bless us, \*

**show us the light of his countenance and come to us.**

Let your ways be known upon earth, \*

**your saving health among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*

**let all the peoples praise you.**

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*

**for you judge the peoples with equity**

**and guide all the nations upon earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*

**let all the peoples praise you.**

The earth has brought forth her increase; \*

**may God, our own God, give us his blessing.**

May God give us his blessing, \*

**and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: **as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

The kingdom of God is at hand: **O come, let us worship.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

A reading from the book of Isaiah 40:1–11.

Comfort, O comfort my people,

says your God.

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.

A voice cries out:

“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.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together,

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

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.

The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;

surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand forever.

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!”

See, the Lord God comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

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.

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, \*

**you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.**

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*

**and blotted out all their sins.**

You have withdrawn all your fury \*

**and turned yourself from your wrathful indignation.**

Restore us then, O God our Saviour; \*

**let your anger depart from us.**

Will you be displeased with us for ever? \*

**will you prolong your anger from age to age?**

Will you not give us life again, \*

**that your people may rejoice in you?**

Show us your mercy, O Lord, \*

**and grant us your salvation.**

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, \*

**for he is speaking peace to his faithful people**

**and to those who turn their hearts to him.**

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*

**that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Mercy and truth have met together; \*

**righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*

**and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, \*

**and our land will yield its increase.**

Righteousness shall go before him, \*

**and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

A reading from the second letter from Peter 3:8-15a.

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 19b - *The Song of Zechariah* - *Luke 1:68-79*

Bless’d be the God of Israel,

**the ever-living Lord,**

who comes in pow’r to save his own,

**his people Israel.**

For Israel he raises up

**salvation’s tow’r on high**

in David’s house who reigned as king

**and servant of the Lord.**

Through holy prophets did he speak

**his word in days of old,**

that he would save us from our foes

**and all who bear us ill.**

To our ancestors did he give

**his covenant of love;**

so with us all he keeps his word

**in love that knows no end.**

Of old he gave his solemn oath

**to Father Abraham;**

his seed a mighty race should be

**and bless’d for evermore.**

He vowed to set his people free

**from fear of ev’ry foe**

that we might serve him all our days

**in goodness, love, and peace.**

O tiny child, your name shall be

**the prophet of the Lord;**

the way of God you shall prepare

**to make his coming known.**

You shall proclaim to Israel

**salvation’s dawning day**

when God shall wipe away all sins

**in his redeeming love.**

The rising sun shall shine on us

**to bring the light of day**

to all who sit in darkest night

**and shadow of the grave.**

Our footsteps God shall safely guide

**to walk the ways of peace.**

His name for evermore be bless’d

**who lives and loves and saves.**

Hymn: *Come, You Sinners, Poor, & Needy* (CP #608)

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark (1:1–8). **Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of Christ: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying, “Lord Jesus, come soon!”

O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

For our own needs and those of others. [***Take a moment of silence to offer up prayers and intercessions, for yourself and for others. Our weekly prayer list can be found in this week’s bulletin.***] **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

**[*Silence. Take a moment to offer up your own thanksgivings to God.*]**

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

*Gracious God,*

*you have heard the prayers of your faithful people; you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Grant our requests as may be best for us. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.* ***Amen****.*

Collect

*Almighty God,*

*who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.* **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

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

Closing Hymn: *Come & Fill Our Hearts With Your Peace* (CP #402)

Dismissal

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**