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St. Luke’s Gondola Point

Morning Prayer Service

Advent II - December 6, 2020

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

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” *John 8.12*

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.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

[**Video can be found on our St. Luke’s Website Blog.**]

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: PEACE**

**Child:** Last Sunday, we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of hope. Let us light it again, remembering that the light of hope shines for us in the darkness. (*Light the first candle*).

**Adult:** Peace is one of God’s gifts to us. John the Baptist was a prophet calling the people of Israel to repent, to find peace with God. May we by our actions help to prepare the way for the coming of Peace.

**Child:** We light this second candle to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. His light helps us find ways to share God’s peace with others. (*Light the second candle.*)

**Adult:** The prayer of St. Francis asks God to help us to be peacemakers. Let us say it together.

**Congregation:**

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

**Where there is hatred, let us sow love;**

Where there is injury, pardon;

**Where there is doubt, faith;**

Where there is despair, hope;

**Where there is sadness, joy;**

And where there is darkness, light.

**Grant that we may seek not so much to be consoled as to console,**

To be understood as to understand,

**To be loved, as to love.**

For it is in giving that we receive,

**In pardoning that we are pardoned,**

And in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Opening Hymn: *Hope Is A Star (Verse Two)*

**MORNING PRAYER**

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;

**Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

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.**

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

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

***Jubilate*** *Psalm 100*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*

**serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.**

Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*

**he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; \*

**give thanks to him and call upon his name.**

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; \*

**and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

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 Isaiah 40:1–11.

*Comfort, O comfort my people,*

*says your God.*

*2 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.*

*3 A voice cries out:*

*“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,*

*make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

*4 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.*

*5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,*

*and all people shall see it together,*

*for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”*

*6 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.*

*7 The grass withers, the flower fades,*

*when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;*

*surely the people are grass.*

*8 The grass withers, the flower fades;*

*but the word of our God will stand forever.*

*9 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!”*

*10 See, the Lord God comes with might,*

*and his arm rules for him;*

*his reward is with him,*

*and his recompense before him.*

*11 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 85:1-13

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 2 Peter 3:8–15a.

*8 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. 9 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. 10 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.*

*11 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, 12 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? 13 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.*

*14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; 15 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 & Fill Our Hearts With Your Peace* (CP #402)

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

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

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

*2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,*

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

*who will prepare your way;*

*3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:*

*‘Prepare the way of the Lord,*

*make his paths straight,’ ”*

*4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 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. 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 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. 8 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 Baptismal Covenant (Includes the Apostle’s Creed)

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**I will, with God’s help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**I will, with God’s help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

**I will, with God’s help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

**I will, with God’s help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**I will, with God’s help.**

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

**I will, with God’s help**

**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!***

*Hear and answer our prayers, O Lord; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, according to your will, and your grace.*

[***Take a moment of silence to offer up prayers and thanksgivings, for yourself and others. Our weekly prayer list can be found in this week’s bulletin.***]

*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.**

Hymn: *Hail To The Lord’s Anointed* (CP #101)

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.**