*Hark the glad sound. (St Magnus)*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

*St Nicholas' Choir O come, O come, Emmanuel*

**Advent 2**

Lord Jesus, Light of the world: the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people in trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmas and show all the world God’s love. **Amen.**

HYMN Hark a thrilling voice is sounding

THE GREETING  *Page 201*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**and also with you.**

WELCOME

HYMN 124 Hark! a thrilling voice *v1*

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. *Matthew 3:5*

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:  
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets. *Matthew 22: 37-39*

**Lord, have mercy on us, and write these your laws in our hearts.**

CONFESSION

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. 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 walk in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COLLECTof the second Sunday in Advent

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: Give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

### THE LESSON: Isaiah 40: 1-11

The lesson is from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 40, beginning at the first verse.

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 for ever.  
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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 85: 1-2, 8-13 *(page: 690)*

1 Lord, you were gracious to your land; \*  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

2 You forgave the offence of your people \*  
and covered all their sins.

8 I will listen to what the Lord God will say, \*  
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,  
that they turn not again to folly.

9 Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth are met together, \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth \*  
and righteousness look down from heaven.

12 The Lord will indeed give all that is good, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him \*  
and direct his steps in the way.

### THE EPISTLE: 2 Peter 3: 8-15a

The Epistle is from the second Epistle of St Peter, in the third chapter, beginning at the eighth verse.

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 people 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. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him,

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN 136 On Jordan's Bank

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 13: 24-37

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to St Mark, in the first chapter, beginning at the first verse.

**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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

SERMON

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 by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son, 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus. Come to your Church as Lord and judge.

We pray for our parish, our diocese and all who worship in the church universal. Help us to live in the light of your coming

and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations.

We pray for the nations of the world, where greed and poverty dim the light of justice and peace. Give wisdom and judgment to rulers. Teach them to know that before you, they will stand in silence.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.

We pray for all whose lives are broken by disease or distress, all who are despised and rejected. Break into our lives, and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.

We remember with thanksgiving all whose lives were an example of faith and godly living. We pray that we may share with them the joys of your eternal kingdom.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people,

who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**Merciful Father, accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.**

THE PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace Luke 1: 78,79

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

HYMN 427 Let all mortal flesh

AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church, separated by distance and disease, soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

*The priest takes the bread and wine in his hands.*

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us

**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 1

The Lord is here.

**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.**

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it is right to give you thanks and praise:

*Proper Preface*

Salvation is your gift through the coming of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and by him you will make all things new when he returns in glory to judge the world:

And so with all your people, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**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, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your own image, male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us: he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world: he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

On the night that he was betrayed \* he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, \* Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper \* he took the cup; and when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, \* for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded:

**we remember his passion and death, we celebrate his resurrection and ascension, and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him: Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

**all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

**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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

 The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

THE COMMUNION

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Remember that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION Breathe on me  *sung by St Nicholas' Choir*

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

THE GREAT SILENCE

 PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our deliverer, Awaken our hearts to prepare the way for the advent of your Son, that, with minds purified by the grace of his coming, we may serve you faithfully all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory**. Amen.**

HYMN Hark the glad sound *(Tune St Magnus)*

THE BLESSING

Christ the sun of righteousness shine upon you, gladden your hearts and scatter the darkness from before you:

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**in the name of Christ. Amen.**