



SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
EVENING PRAYER: RITE I  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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*"John the Baptist Preaching to the Masses in the Wilderness" by Pieter Bruegel the Younger ~ early 17<sup>th</sup> century*

Thine is the day, O God, thine also the night; thou hast established the moon and the sun. Thou hast fixed all the boundaries of the earth; thou hast made summer and winter. *Psalm 74:15, 16*

**Confession of Sin**

*The Officiant says to the people*

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People together*

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws,  
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.  
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

*The Priest alone says*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

### **The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Officiant*      O God, make speed to save us.

*People*          O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Officiant and People*

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.

### **Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13**

1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.

8 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.

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

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

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

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

*At the end of the Psalms is sung or said*

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.

**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 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.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord

*People*        Thanks be to God

### **Canticle – The Song of Simeon**

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,  
according to thy word;

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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 Gospel according to Mark (1:1-8)**

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.”

*Reader*           The Gospel of the Lord

*People*            Thanks be to God

**Sermon**

## **The Apostles' Creed** (Rite II language)

*Officiant and People together*

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.

## **The Prayers**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

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, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Suffrages A**

- V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;  
R. And grant us thy salvation.  
V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;  
R. And make thy chosen people joyful.  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in thee can we live in safety.  
V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
V. Let thy way be known upon earth;  
R. Thy saving health among all nations.  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.

On the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain and The Right Reverend Carlos López-Lozano, Bishop of Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church.

In the Diocese of Montana, we pray for St. Peter's Cathedral, Helena and the Very Rev. Scott Anderson, Dean.

In our St. Stephen's community, we ask for your prayers for Chris and Linda, Dorothy, Echo, Jan, Kim, Lisa, Lynn, Miles, Susan, and Tim.

### *Collect of the Day*

Merciful God, who sent thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Collect for Aid against Perils*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Collect for the Presence of Christ*

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know thee as thou art revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of thy love. *Amen.*

*Prayer for Mission*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love's sake. *Amen.*

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.*

**General Thanksgiving**

*Officiant and People*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we thine unworthy servants

do give thee most humble and hearty thanks  
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all men.

We bless thee for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for thine inestimable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we beseech thee,  
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,  
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;  
and that we show forth thy praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to thy service,  
and by walking before thee  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,  
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

*Then may be said*

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*Concluding sentence*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen. *2 Corinthians 13:14*

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