

## Fourth Sunday in Advent

Morning Prayer Book of Alternative Services (p. 45)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

THE BLESSING AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

OPENING SENTENCE

I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to his word.

LUKE 1:38

THE PENITENTIAL RITE

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found, call upon him when he draws near; let the wicked forsake their ways, and the evil ones their thoughts; and let them return to the Lord, and he will have compassion, and to our God, for he will richly pardon.

ISAIAH 55:6, 7

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

*Silence is kept.*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(KNEEL OR SIT)

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.**

MORNING PRAYER

Officiant: Lord, open our lips, (STAND)

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

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.

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

**All: 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 INVITATORY

The Lord is our refuge and strength: O come, let us worship.

HYMN

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

(SIT)

*After each reading, except the psalm, the reader says "The Word of the Lord" and all respond: Thanks be to God.*

FIRST READING – 1<sup>ST</sup> READER

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: "Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.'"

2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16

CANTICLE – 1<sup>ST</sup> READER

My soul gives glory to the Lord, in God my Saviour I rejoice.

**My lowliness he did regard, exalting me by his own choice.**

From this day all shall call me blest, for he has done great things for me.

**Of all great names his is the best. For it is holy; strong is he!**

His mercy goes to all who fear from age to age and to all parts.

**His arm of strength to all is near; he scatters those who have proud hearts.**

He casts the mighty from their throne and raises those of low degree;

**he feeds the hungry as his own, the rich depart in poverty.**

LUKE 1:46-55

**All: 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.**

SECOND READING – 2<sup>ND</sup> READER

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

ROMANS 16:25-27

RESPONSORY – 2<sup>ND</sup> READER

In my mouth he has put a new song: praise to our God! **In my mouth he has put a new song: praise to our God!**

I waited patiently upon the Lord; he stooped to me and heard my cry. **Praise to our God!**

Many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord. **Praise to our God!**

I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep in my heart. **Praise to our God!**

I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; behold, I did not restrain my lips. **Praise to our God!**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. **In my mouth he has put a new song: praise to our God!**

GOSPEL

(REMAIN SEATED)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

LUKE 1:26-38

BENEDICTUS

(STAND)

Officiant: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;

**All: he has come to his people and set them free.**

**He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.**

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**

**You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

LUKE 1:68-79

**All: 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.**

SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED

(STAND)

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.**

OFFERTORY HYMN

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(KNEEL OR SIT)

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, **Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and all**

**whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable 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 pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory throughout all ages. Amen**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

(STAND)

*Silence is kept.*

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

COLLECTS FOR GRACE, PEACE, & GOD'S GUIDANCE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray. Our Father in heaven,

**All: hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen**

THE GRACE

CLOSING HYMN

THE DISMISSAL

*As per government safety protocols, please ensure that you take this order of service handout home with you.*