

Wednesday – Year 2 Advent 2  
Morning Prayer

### **Opening Sentence**

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight  
in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

### **Versicle and Response**

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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.

### **Invitatory**

#### **Jubilate**

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.

### **Psalms**

#### **38**

1 O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger; \*  
do not punish me in your wrath.

2 For your arrows have already pierced me, \*  
and your hand presses hard upon me.

3 There is no health in my flesh,  
because of your indignation; \*  
there is no soundness in my body, because of my sin.

4 For my iniquities overwhelm me; \*  
like a heavy burden they are too much for me to bear.

5 My wounds stink and fester \*  
by reason of my foolishness.

6 I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; \*  
I go about in mourning all the day long.

7 My loins are filled with searing pain; \*  
there is no health in my body.

8 I am utterly numb and crushed; \*  
I wail, because of the groaning of my heart.

9 O Lord, you know all my desires, \*  
and my sighing is not hidden from you.

10 My heart is pounding, my strength has failed me, \*  
and the brightness of my eyes is gone from me.

11 My friends and companions draw back from my affliction; \*  
my neighbors stand afar off.

12 Those who seek after my life lay snares for me; \*  
those who strive to hurt me speak of my ruin  
and plot treachery all the day long.

13 But I am like the deaf who do not hear, \*  
like those who are mute and do not open their mouth.

14 I have become like one who does not hear \*  
and from whose mouth comes no defense.

15 For in you, O Lord, have I fixed my hope; \*  
you will answer me, O Lord my God.

16 For I said, "Do not let them rejoice at my expense, \*  
those who gloat over me when my foot slips."

17 Truly, I am on the verge of falling, \*  
and my pain is always with me.

18 I will confess my iniquity \*  
and be sorry for my sin.

19 Those who are my enemies without cause are mighty, \*  
and many in number are those who wrongfully hate me.

20 Those who repay evil for good slander me, \*  
because I follow the course that is right.

21 O Lord, do not forsake me; \*  
be not far from me, O my God.

22 Make haste to help me, \*  
O Lord of my salvation.

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.

## Reading

### Amos 8:1-14

This is what the Lord God showed me—a basket of summer fruit.\* He said, ‘Amos, what do you see?’  
And I said, ‘A basket of summer fruit.’\* Then the Lord said to me,  
‘The end\* has come upon my people Israel;  
I will never again pass them by.  
The songs of the temple\* shall become wailings on that day,’  
says the Lord God;  
‘the dead bodies shall be many,  
cast out in every place. Be silent!’

Hear this, you that trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,  
saying, ‘When will the new moon be over  
so that we may sell grain;  
and the sabbath,  
so that we may offer wheat for sale?  
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,  
and practise deceit with false balances,  
buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals,  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.’

The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.  
Shall not the land tremble on this account,  
and everyone mourn who lives in it,  
and all of it rise like the Nile,  
and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?

On that day, says the Lord God,  
I will make the sun go down at noon,  
and darken the earth in broad daylight.  
I will turn your feasts into mourning,  
and all your songs into lamentation;  
I will bring sackcloth on all loins,  
and baldness on every head;  
I will make it like the mourning for an only son,  
and the end of it like a bitter day.

The time is surely coming, says the Lord God,  
when I will send a famine on the land;  
not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water,  
but of hearing the words of the Lord.  
They shall wander from sea to sea,  
and from north to east;  
they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord,  
but they shall not find it.

In that day the beautiful young women and the young men  
shall faint for thirst.

Those who swear by Ashimah of Samaria,  
and say, 'As your god lives, O Dan',  
and, 'As the way of Beer-sheba lives'—  
they shall fall, and never rise again.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### **Canticle 11 The Third Song of Isaiah**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, \*  
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.  
For behold, darkness covers the land; \*  
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.  
But over you the Lord will rise, \*  
and his glory will appear upon you.  
Nations will stream to your light, \*  
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.  
Your gates will always be open; \*  
by day or night they will never be shut.  
They will call you, The City of the Lord, \*  
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.  
Violence will no more be heard in your land, \*  
ruin or destruction within your borders.  
You will call your walls, Salvation, \*  
and all your portals, Praise.  
The sun will no more be your light by day; \*  
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.  
The Lord will be your everlasting light, \*  
and your God will be your glory.

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.

## Reading

### Matthew 23:1-12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ‘The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practise what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear,\* and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honour at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students.\* And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah.\* The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### Canticle 16

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;\*  
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,\*  
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.

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 Apostle's 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.

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.  
Let us pray.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,  
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.

### **Suffrages**

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
Govern and uphold them, now and always.

Day by day we bless you;  
We praise your name for ever.  
Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
For we put our trust in you.  
In you, Lord, is our hope;  
And we shall never hope in vain.

### **Collect of the Day: Second Sunday of Advent**

Merciful God, who sent your 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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **A Collect for Peace**

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **For Mission**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### **Prayers and Intercessions**

Let us pray now for our own needs and those of others.

### **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 to 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 our selves 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 honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

## **Benediction**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20,21