Morning Prayer

The First Sunday of Advent

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up,and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also.

Isaiah 45:8

Invitatory and Psalter **BCP p. 80**

*Officiant*Lord, open our lips.
People **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.

Venite ***Psalm 95:1-7***

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come, let us adore him.

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
  let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
  and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God, *
  and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
  and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
  and his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
  and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
  Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!
Our King and Savior now draws near: Come, let us adore him.

Psalm 146 **BCP p. 803**

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul! *
  I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, *
  for there is no help in them.
When they breathe their last, they return to earth, *
  and in that day their thoughts perish.
Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
  whose hope is in the LORD their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
The LORD shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Psalm 147 **BCP p. 804**

Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.
He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.
Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.
The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.
Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.
He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;
He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.
He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.
He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.
Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob, *
   his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
He has not done so to any other nation; *
   to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!
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 Lessons

The First Lesson Isa. 1:1-9

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know, my people do not understand. Ah, sinful nation, people laden with iniquity, offspring who do evil, children who deal corruptly, who have forsaken the LORD, who have despised the Holy One of Israel, who are utterly estranged! Why do you seek further beatings? Why do you continue to rebel? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and bleeding wounds; they have not been drained, or bound up, or softened with oil. Your country lies desolate, your cities are burned with fire; in your very presence aliens devour your land; it is desolate, as overthrown by foreigners. And daughter Zion is left like a booth in a vineyard, like a shelter in a cucumber field, like a besieged city. If the LORD of hosts had not left us a few survivors, we would have been like Sodom, and become like Gomorrah.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

11. The Third Song of Isaiah ***Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19***

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.

The Second Lesson 2 Pet. 3:1-10

A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter.

This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you; in them I am trying to arouse your sincere intention by reminding you that you should remember the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets, and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken through your apostles.

First of all you must understand this, that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and indulging their own lusts and saying, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since our ancestors died, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation!" They deliberately ignore this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water, through which the world of that time was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the godless.

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.

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

16. The Song of Zechariah ***Luke 1: 68-79***

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 Apostles' Creed **BCP p. 96**

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 **BCP p. 97**

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant 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 For Use in Morning Prayer EOW 1 p. 42

V. Help us, O God our Savior;
R. **Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**
V. Look upon your congregation.
R. **Give to your people the blessing of peace.**
V. Declare your glory among the nations;
R. **And your wonders among all peoples.**
V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
R. **Never forget the lives of your poor.**
V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
R. **And your favor to those who are true of heart.**
V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
R. **So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

The Collect of the Day

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

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

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

The General Thanksgiving **BCP p. 101**

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.**

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