

The 2nd Sunday before Advent

Sunday 15 November 2020

Welcome

Welcome in the name of Christ.

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you
and also with you.

We meet in the name of God;

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Saying sorry

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

Most merciful God,

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

we confess that we have sinned

in thought, word and deed.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

In your mercy

forgive what we have been,

help us to amend what we are,

and direct what we shall be;

that we may do justly,

love mercy,

and walk humbly with you, our God.

Amen.

Receiving Forgiveness

May the God of love and power
forgive *us* and free *us* from *our* sins,
heal and strengthen *us* by his Spirit,
and raise *us* to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

Heavenly Lord,
You long for the world's salvation:
Stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
In Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Readings

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. **2** For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3** When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! **4** But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; **5** for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. **6** So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; **7** for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. **8** But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. **9** For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴ “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents,^[a] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Talk – Katharine Bacon, LLM

Song – Come down O love divine

- 1 Come down, O Love divine,
 seek thou this soul of mine,
 and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
 O Comforter, draw near,
 within my heart appear,
 and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

- 2 And so the yearning strong
 with which the soul will long
 shall far outpass the pow’r of human telling;
 nor can we guess its grace,
 till we become the place
 wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

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Affirming our Faith

Let us declare our faith in God

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

cf Ephesians 3

Prayers

The prayers conclude with:

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of Heaven,
as our Saviour taught us, we say together:

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.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and for ever.

Amen.

Song – I give you all the honour

1 I give You all the honour,
And praise that's due Your name.
For You are the King of Glory,
The creator of all things.

*Chorus And I worship You,
I give my life to You,
I fall down on my knees.
Yes, I worship You,
I give my life to You,
I fall down on my knees.*

2 As Your spirit moves upon me now,
You meet my deepest need.
And I lift my hands up to Your throne,
Your mercy I've received.

3 You have broken chains that bound me,
You have set this captive free.
I will lift my voice to praise Your name,
For all eternity.

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The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.