



CHRIST
EPISCOPAL
church

December 6, 2020
The Second Sunday of Advent
Approaching the Mystery

Prelude

Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland (S.659)

J.S. Bach

Officiant

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;

People

to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

(Dec. 23) I O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som

I cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile

I here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.**

The First Lesson

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?"

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

During each Responsory, three candles will be lit as we approach the mystery of the birth of Christ.

The First Responsory

Leader	Every valley shall be lifted up, and the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain
People	The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Leader	Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
People	The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Isaiah 40:1-11

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.

The Second Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-15a

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.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

The Second Responsoy

Leader The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, for the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

People Because, in accordance with God's promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Leader We ought to be leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God.

People We wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

The Gospel Lesson

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."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

The Third Responsory

Leader A messenger is sent ahead of you, and will be a voice crying out in the wilderness.

People Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Leader John baptized with water, but Christ will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

People Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

The Psalm *Benedixisti, Domine*

Psalm 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.

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Steven J. Pankey

The Apostles' Creed *All Standing.*

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 Anthem

Dearest Lord Jesu

J.S. Bach

The Litany

O WISDOM, proceeding from the Most High, reaching from one end to another, mighty and sweetly ordering all things:

Come and teach us the way of understanding.

O ADONAI AND LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and on Mount Sinai gave the Law:

Come to deliver us with your strong arm.

O ROOT OF JESSE, give as a sign for all peoples, in whose presence kings are silenced and before whom all nations will be judged:

Come with the day of peace and do not delay.

O KEY OF DAVID, who opens and none can shut, leading us to life everlasting:

Come and lead out those bound in chains.

O DAY SPRING, the bright and morning star, the eternal light that enlightens all:

Come and shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

O KING OF THE NATIONS, chosen and precious cornerstone, binding into one all peoples:

Come quiet the strife that afflicts your children.

O EMMANUEL, the promise and the fulfillment of all promises:

Come and bring among us the joy of your kingdom.

Even so, Lord Jesus, quickly come. *Amen.*

The Confession

Deacon Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God

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 Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The Closing Hymn

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

H76



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

The Dismissal

People *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude

Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland (S. 599)

J.S. Bach

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Sonny Travelsted
by Mary Travelsted and family

Ministers of the Service

Officiant	The Very Rev. Becca Kello
Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Steve Pankey
Deacon	The Rev. Kellie Mysinger
Lectors	Bill Collins Janet Grider Leigh Harper
Intercessor	Helen Siewers
Organist	C. Kenneth Stein
Vocalists	Deborah Stein, Brittany Whitlow, Tiffany DeLoach, Gavin Knies, Tyler Smith, and Quinn Hixon
Audio Visual Team	Rick and Linda Mitchell

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