

St Peter's Church

A Service of the Word for the Second Sunday before Advent

The Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all.

All: Amen.

Loving God, we have come to worship you.

**All: Help us to pray to you in faith,
to sing your praise with gratitude,
and to listen to your word with eagerness;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

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

**All: 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.**

May the God of love
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Gloria

All:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The Collect: The Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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.

Please sit for

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Malachai 4.1-2a

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.

But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us.

For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you.

This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

The Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All: Glory to you O Lord

Luke 21.15-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said,

‘As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.’

They asked him, ‘Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?’

And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them.

'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.'

Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify.

'So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

'You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

After the Gospel

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you O Christ

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith
Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**All: 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.**

We sit for the

Prayers of Intercession

This response will be used:

Lord in your mercy:
All: hear our prayer.

And at the end:

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praise into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

**All: 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.**

We listen to The Notices

Conclusion

Blessing and Dismissal

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
through the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and Holy
Spirit, be with us, now, and always, **Amen.**
Amen.

We go into the world
to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory.

All: Amen.

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