

10th December 2023 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Collect:

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and Saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

Amen

Psalm 85.1-2, 8-end

- ¹ LORD, you were favourable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
² You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.
⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their
hearts.
⁹ Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
¹¹ Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
¹² The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
¹³ Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

Isaiah 40.1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
² 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.

³ A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

⁶ A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

⁹ 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!'

¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ 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.

3 Peter 3.8-15a

⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way,
what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of
holiness and godliness, ¹² 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? ¹³ But, in accordance with
his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth,
where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these
things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot
or blemish; ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as
salvation.

Mark 1.1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son
of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight",

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness
of sins. ⁵ 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. ⁶ Now John was clothed with
camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and
he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ 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. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will
baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'