



St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

December 7, 2008

BCP-Book of Common Prayer

WLP Hymnal-Wonder, Love and Praise

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
11:15 a.m.
The Reverend Mary Moore Roberson, Celebrant

The Word of God

At the Procession

Hymnal #65 "Prepare the way, O Zion"

Bereden väg för Herran

Entrance Rite

BCP 355

Song of Praise

Hymnal #S102 "Holy God" *Trisagion*

Archangelsky

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us. (*Sing 3 times*)

The Collect of the Day

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

Isaiah 40:1-11

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?" 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 forever. 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 Gradual

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 *Benedixisti, Domine*

- 1 You have been gracious to your / land, ▪ O / LORD, *
you have re/stored the ▪ good / fortune ▪ of / Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the in/iquity ▪ 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 ▪ to/gether; *
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 ▪ pros/perity, *
and our / land ▪ will / yield ▪ its / increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall / go ▪ be/fore him, *
and peace shall be a / path▪way / for ▪ his / feet.

The Epistle

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.

At the Sequence

Hymnal #67 "Comfort, comfort ye my people"

*Psalm 42***The Gospel****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."

The Sermon The Reverend J. Fletcher Montgomery**The Nicene Creed****BCP 358****The Prayers of the People, Form VI****BCP 392****Absolution****BCP 360****The Peace****The Holy Communion****At the Offertory** "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"

Paul Manz

*Chancel Choir***Hymn at the Presentation**

Hymnal #380, v. 3 "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"

*Old 100th***The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer C****BCP 369**Hymnal #S114 "Holy, holy, holy Lord" *Sanctus*

Healey Willan

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Breaking of the Bread**BCP 364**

Hymnal #S158 "O Lamb of God"

Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. (Repeat)

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Hymns at the Communion

WLP #722 "The desert shall rejoice"

Sterling

The First Song of Isaiah (Canticle 9)—Setting by Jack Noble White

BCP p. 86

Hymnal #335 "I am the bread of life"

*I Am the Bread of Life***People's response to the sending out of the Eucharistic Visitors:***May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this Sacrament of Christ's presence.*

Hymn at the Procession

Hymnal #75 “There’s a voice in the wilderness crying”

Ascension

Dismissal

The Hymns of Advent:

The first and last hymns that we sing today, the second Sunday in Advent, are all about the prophetic voices of the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptizer:

- ***Prepare the way, O Zion:*** While not a man of science, the author of the text of this hymn, Finnish-Swedish poet, librarian, educator, pastor and bishop Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847) would probably be considered something of a Renaissance man by the standards of today’s more highly specialized educational system. Franzen’s poetry was considered a forerunner of the Romantic movement. The text of this hymn (originally in 7 verses) was penned to be sung to a Swedish melody composed much earlier, possibly before 1560.
- ***There’s a voice in the wilderness crying:*** This great paraphrase of Isaiah 40 by Canadian (Toronto) military correspondent, editorial writer and PR man James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961) was written around 1930, on the occasion of the union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches to form the United Church of Canada. The delightfully pastoral melody of this hymn was composed eight years later by the (western) Canadian church musician and composer, Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988) for use with this popular text.