



THE CHURCH
OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

The Order for Morning Prayer

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

Opening Sentences

Officiant Watch ye, for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock-crowing, or in the morning; lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. *Mark 13:35-36*

Confession of Sin

¶ The Officiant says

DEARLY BELOVED, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

¶ Officiant and People, all kneeling

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;
And there is no health in us.
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 Officiant alone stands and says*

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 his Holy Spirit.

‡ *People Amen.*

‡ *All stand*

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.

People And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

All Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

‡ *All say the Invitatory Canticle together, as follows*

Invitatory Canticle

Venite, exultemus

PSALM 95:1-7, 96:9, 13

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; *
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, *
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are all the corners of the earth, *
and the strength of the hills is his also.
The sea is his and he made it, *
and his hands prepared the dry land.
O come, let us worship and fall down *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is the Lord our God, *
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, *
and with righteousness to judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

‡ *All are then seated for the Psalm appointed for the day*

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Qui regis Israel

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a flock; *
show thyself also, thou that sittest upon the Cherubim.

Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up thy strength, and come and help us.

Turn us again, O God; *
show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

O Lord God of hosts, *
how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that prayeth?

Thou feedest them with the bread of tears, *
and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.

Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Turn us again, thou God of hosts; *
show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, *
and upon the son of man, whom thou madest so strong for thine own self.

And so will not we go back from thee: *
let us live, and we shall call upon thy Name.

Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

¶ At the conclusion of the Psalmody the Gloria Patri is said by all

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

The First Lesson

ISAIAH 64:1-9

O THAT THOU WOULDST REND THE HEAVENS and come down, that the mountains might quake at thy presence – as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make thy name known to thy adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at thy presence! When thou didst terrible things which we looked not for, thou camest down, the mountains quaked at thy presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides thee, who works for those who wait for him. Thou meetest him that joyfully works righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways. Behold, thou wast angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one that calls upon thy name, that bestirs himself to take hold of thee; for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast delivered us into the hand of our iniquities. Yet, O Lord, thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou art our potter; we are all the work of thy hand. Be not exceedingly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity for ever. Behold, consider, we are all thy people.

¶ *Following the Lesson, all stand for the Canticle*

Canticle

Surge, illuminare

ISAIAH 60:1-3, 11A, 14C, 18-19

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, *
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, *
and gross darkness the people:
But the Lord shall arise upon thee, *
and his glory shall be seen upon thee.
And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, *
and kings to the brightness of thy rising.
Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; *
they shall not be shut day nor night.
They shall call thee, The city of the Lord, *
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, *
wasting nor destruction within thy borders;
But thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, *
and thy gates Praise.
The sun shall be no more thy light by day; *
neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee:
But the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, *
and thy God thy glory.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

‡ *All are seated*

The Second Lesson

MARK 13:24-37

JESUS SAID, “BUT IN THOSE DAYS, AFTER THAT TRIBULATION, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away before all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Watch therefore – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning – lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Watch.”

‡ *Following the Lesson, all stand for the Canticle*

Canticle

Benedictus Dominus Deus

LUKE 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, *
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us *
in the house of his servant David,
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, *
which have been since the world began:
That we should be saved from our enemies, *
and from the hand of all that hate us;
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, *
and to remember his holy covenant;
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham, *
that he would give us,
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies *
might serve him without fear,
In holiness and righteousness before him, *
all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, *
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord
to prepare his ways;
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people *
for the remission of their sins,
Through the tender mercy of our God, *
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;
To give light to them that sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

¶ All remain standing for the Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed

¶ Said by the Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, ✚
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

¶ *The Officiant and People say the following*

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

¶ *Then the short form of the Lord's Prayer is said by all, kneeling*

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.

Amen.

¶ *Then follow these Suffrages, said by the Officiant and People*

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

People And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

People And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People For only in thee can we live in safety.

Officiant Lord, keep this nation under thy care;

People And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Officiant Let thy way be known upon earth;

People Thy saving health among all nations.

Officiant Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

People Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Officiant Create in us clean hearts, O God;

People And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.

The Collects

ALMIGHTY GOD, GIVE US GRACE that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *¶ People Amen.*

O GOD, THE KING ETERNAL, who dividest the day from the night and turnest the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep thy law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done thy will with cheerfulness while it was day, we may, when the night cometh, rejoice to give thee thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *¶ People Amen.*

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, by whose Spirit the whole body of thy faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before thee for all members of thy holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *¶ People Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

¶ Said by the Officiant and People together

ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants do give
thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all men.

We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

¶ Said by the Officiant

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *¶ People Amen.*

¶ All stand

Benedicamus Domino

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Grace

¶ Officiant

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *¶ People Amen.*

Hymn

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds descend - ing, once for
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on
our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand
dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less
thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the
saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine
train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: HELMSLEY: Augustine Arne (1719-1778)

Sermon

The Rev. Jamal Scarlett

Anthem

O Thou the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light
Of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let Thy glory shine,
Guiding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,
As stars about Thy throne set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight
Gives measur'd grace to each, Thy power to prove.

Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day,
In fellowship with Thee, transforming day
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

Words: Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833–1917)

Music: Charles Wood (1866–1926)

¶ All kneel

The Great Litany

Litanist O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,
People Have mercy upon us.

Litanist O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
People Have mercy upon us.

Litanist O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful,
People Have mercy upon us.

Litanist O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,
People Have mercy upon us.

Litanist Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers;
neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people,
whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy
preserve us for ever.

People Spare us, good Lord.

- Litanist* From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; and from everlasting damnation,
People Good Lord, deliver us.
- Litanist* From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,
People Good Lord, deliver us.
- Litanist* From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,
People Good Lord, deliver us.
- Litanist* From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment,
People Good Lord, deliver us.
- Litanist* From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine,
People Good Lord, deliver us.
- Litanist* From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,
People Good Lord, deliver us.
- Litanist* By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,
People Good Lord, deliver us.
- Litanist* By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,
People Good Lord, deliver us.
- Litanist* In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,
People Good Lord, deliver us.
- Litanist* We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

- Litanist* That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all
mankind into thy kingdom,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive
thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and
are deceived,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to
live after thy commandments,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the
United States, the President Elect, and all others in authority, that they may do
justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all
nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the
homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the
earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work
which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the
common good,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor
or their travel,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

- Litanist* That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed ✠ eternal life and peace,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Michael and All Angels, Blessed George, and all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,
People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
- Litanist* Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.
People Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.
- Litanist* O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People Have mercy upon us.

Litanist O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People Have mercy upon us.

Litanist O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People Grant us thy peace.

Litanist O Christ, hear us.
People O Christ, hear us.

Litanist Lord, have mercy upon us.
People Lord, have mercy upon us.

Litanist Christ, have mercy upon us.
People Christ, have mercy upon us.

Litanist Lord, have mercy upon us.
People Lord, have mercy upon us.

Officiant Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, whose will it is to restore all things in thy well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ¶ *People Amen.*

The Advent Blessing

MAY ALMIGHTY GOD, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.
¶ *People Amen.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. ¶ *People Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. ¶ *People Amen.*

And the blessing ✝ of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ¶ *People Amen.*

Liturgical Music

Johann Sebastian Bach's (1685-1750) tenor aria *Wachet auf (Sleepers wake)* from his Advent Cantata 140 is one of the master's best-loved and most popular works. Arranged by Bach himself for instruments alone, it is heard as the prelude music this morning.

Focused on the Second Coming at the end of time, the language of this morning's triumphal hymn is apocalyptic, and it is imbued with all of the images found in Revelation 1:7: "Behold, he cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him, and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."

This morning's anthem, *O thou, the central orb* by Charles Wood (1866-1926) is, perhaps, the composer's best-known choral work and is a staple of the Advent repertoire for most Anglican choirs.

J. S. Bach's small setting of *Nun komm der heiden Heiland (Come, thou Savior of our race)*, the music heard at the close of today's liturgy, is taken from the composer's *Orgelbüchlein*, a set of hymn-tune preludes for the liturgical year. Originally composed for organ, it is here arranged for string orchestra.



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