*Eucharist Advent 3, Year B, 13.12.2020*

*Hymn The Lord will come*

The Lord will come and not be slow, his footsteps cannot err;   
before Him righteousness shall go, his royal harbinger.   
  
Truth from the earth, like to a flower, shall bud and blossom free;   
and justice, from her heavenly bower, bless all humanity.   
  
The nations all whom thou hast made Shall come, and all shall frame   
to bow them low before thee, Lord, and glorify thy name.   
  
For great thou art, and wonders great by thy strong hand are done:   
thou in thy everlasting seat remainest God alone.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The Greeting*

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

*Lighting of the third Advent Candle:*

God our Father, you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age a son called John.

He grew up strong in spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,

and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.

Help us, who have been baptized into Christ, to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,

and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

*Prayers of Penitence*

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Absolution*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,

have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,

confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Collect*

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Let us pray

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world   
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Liturgy of the Word*

*First Reading* **Isaiah 61: 1-4; 8-11**

The servant of the Lord said: The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## *Second Reading* 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

My brothers and sisters, Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *St John*.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## John 1: 6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ He said,   
‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord”’,  
as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sermon*

*The Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God, begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father (and the Son,)**

**who with the Father and the Son**

**is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Prayers of Intercession*

*People in Zimbabwe pray daily for us. Let us also pray for them daily: God Bless Zimbabwe, protect her children, transform her leaders, heal her communities and grant her peace, for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen. Pray for the people suffering hardship and hunger in Zimbabwe, and for our Link Dioceses: Bishop Ignatios in Central Zimbabwe, Bishop Erick in Manicaland, Bishop Cleophas in Matabeleland and Bishop Godfrey in Masvingo, their clergy and people.*

*In the Diocesan Calendar, we pray for our own Deanery. Today we pray especially for: Abbey Wood, St Michael & All Angels:*

*David Sherratt (V); Derek Robinson (PTO)*

*In the Anglican Communion we pray for the bishops, priests and people of the Falkland Islands (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury), and for the Rt Revd Timothy Thornton, Bishop to the Forces and Bishop for the Falkland Islands*

*We also pray for all whose year’s mind falls at this time.*

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence

before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,

let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations his sceptre of righteousness,

let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,

let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen,

let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That the light of God’s coming may dawn

on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,

let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world,

let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray

to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost;

so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work;

for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

*The Peace*

May the God of peace make you completely holy,

ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

*Hymn Longing for light*

Longing for light, we wait in darkness, longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled, longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us, make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry, longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless, longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

*Preparation of the Altar*

*Prayer at the preparation of the altar.*

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement; draw us from hatred to love;

make the frailty of our praise a dwelling place for your glory. **Amen.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer*

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,

he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world

to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,

we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels

and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light,

yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ

you reveal the power of your love made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation;

loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us; dying for his own,

he set us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all he took bread and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;

he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,

we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,

we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high and we long for his coming in glory.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father,

by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation

be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.

Bless the earth, heal the sick,

let the oppressed go free and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth

to feast with all your saints at the table in your kingdom,

where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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, the power and the glory,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,**

**because we all share in one bread.**

*Agnus Dei*

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

*Giving of Communion*

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,**

**but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Quiet Music: Wait for the Lord*

*Prayer after Communion*

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Then we pray together:*

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,**

**that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,**

**so we and all your children shall be free,**

**and the whole earth live to praise your name;**

**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Dismissal*

May God the Father, judge all-merciful, make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

**Amen.**

May God the Son, coming among us in power, reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

**Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and constant in love.

**Amen.**

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Hymn Lord, the light of your love*

Lord the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining

Jesus light of the world shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us

Shine on me, Shine on me

*Shine Jesus shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory*

*Blaze spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.*

*Flow river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy*

*Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance

By the blood I may enter your brightness, search me, try me, consume all my darkness

Shine on me, Shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness

Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story

Shine on me, shine on me

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