

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020



This 17<sup>th</sup> C. Russian Icon shows S. John the Baptist with wings. This form is known as The Angel from the Desert. The wings are a device used to suggest the 'angelic' quality of John's ministry. He is the 'voice' from out of the wilderness, the Lord's messenger (Greek 'angelos') as indicated by the open scroll. And his lifestyle is extremely ascetic, austere and anti-materialistic, which is angelic in the sense that it has a spiritual rather than physical emphasis. "Heavenly man, earthly angel" as he is called in Orthodoxy. He holds a diskos (the footed paten for the Eucharist) and he points to the infant Christ lying on it, suggesting his role as prophetic Forerunner whose mission is to prepare the way for the Messiah.

Before Mass begins spend a few minutes in prayer.

Here are some suggested intentions for your intercessions today:

That Advent may be a time of spiritual growth for Christians.

For faithfulness in proclaiming the message of God's saving love in Christ.

For those who struggle to make sense of life and find purpose for their lives.

For wisdom in those setting policies for managing the Covid-19 pandemic.

Then say this:

### **Act of Preparation for Communion**

In union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving, and especially for  
*(Here give your prayer intentions- your intercessions - for today).*

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, (If you are not able to be present at Mass, add these words: “and since I cannot receive you sacramentally today”) I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you through this celebration and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you, that I may live and die in your love. Amen.

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O People of Zion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice herald the joy of your heart.

### GATHERING

✙ In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*All:* **Amen**

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

*All:* **And also with you.**

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

**Priest:** Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory forever. Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets, but in our days, you speak through your Son, whom you have appointed the heir of all things. Grant us, your people, to walk in his light, that we may be found ready and watching when he comes again in glory and judgement; for you are our light and our salvation.

*All:* **Blessed be God for ever.**

*The Priest introduces the Mass and invites us to call to mind our sins.*

### PENITENTIAL RITE

John the Baptist called people to turn to God in repentance for the forgiveness of sins. To prepare ourselves to celebrate the holy mysteries by which we are saved, let us call to mind and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

For the times we have preferred the darkness of sin to the light of Christ who came to be our salvation.  
Lord have mercy.

*All:* **Lord, have mercy.**

For the love of comfort and security which can blind us to the needs of those forced to live in perpetual want without hope of relief.

Christ, have mercy.

*All:* **Lord, have mercy.**

For our failures to recognise the image of God in those who share our lives, especially those in special need of love and understanding.

Lord, have mercy.

*All:* **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: May almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

*All:* **Amen.**

COLLECT: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God,  
may no earthly undertaking hinder those  
who set out in haste to meet your Son,  
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom  
gain us admittance to his company.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

*All:* **Amen.**

### FIRST READING

**Isaiah 40:1-5; 9-11.**

*A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah*

Console my people, console them, says your God. Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes. A voice cries, Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth

of the Lord has spoken. Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, Here is your God. Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Response:**

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace, peace for is people.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven. **R.**
3. The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

### SECOND READING

**2 Peter 3: 8-24.**

*A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Peter*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you

wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The Word of the Lord.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord. Make his paths straight  
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

### THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1: 1-8

The Lord be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

*All:* **✠Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the River Jordan, they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*All:* **Praise to you, O Christ**

HOMILY

## THE CREED

We profess our faith  
Please stand

**All:** 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,

**ALL** *was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary*  
**BOW** *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.

## INTERCESSIONS

Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

## 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.

**All: And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## THE OFFERTORY

*As this is taking place, recollect your prayer intentions for today and offer them up as part of your offering for today's Mass.*

*Bread and wine are taken, and the altar is prepared.  
Raising the Paten and Ciborium, the Priest says:*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all Creation.  
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,  
fruit of the earth and work of human hands.  
It will become for us the Bread of Life.

*All:* **Blessed be God for ever.**

Raising the Chalice, the Priest says:  
Blessed are you, Lord God of all Creation.  
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become our spiritual drink.

*All:* **Blessed be God for ever.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

*All:* **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands,  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings,  
and since we have no merits to plead our cause,  
come, we pray, to our rescue  
with the protection of your mercy.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*All:* **Amen.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you

*All:* **And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

*All:* **We lift them to the Lord**

*All:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**It is right to give thanks and praise**

## PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Christ, our Lord.

For he assumed at his first coming  
the lowliness of human flesh,  
and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago,  
and opened for us the way to eternal salvation,  
that, when he comes again in glory and majesty  
and all is at last made manifest,  
we who watch for that day  
may inherit the great promise in which now we dare to hope.  
And so, with Angels and Archangels,  
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,  
we sing the hymn of your glory,  
as without end we acclaim:

**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, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may become for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
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.**

The mystery of faith

*All:* **When we eat this bread and drink this cup  
We proclaim your death, Lord Jesus  
until you come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this bread and this cup  
our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on Martin our Bishop and on all your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that, in the company of Mary, the Virgin Mother God,  
Blessed Joseph her spouse, the apostles, the martyrs,  
Saint Edward, St Richard, St Wilfrid and all the saints,  
we may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
Through him, and with him, and in him.  
O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit.  
all glory and honour are yours, for ever and ever.

*All:* **AMEN.**

### THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,  
we dare to say:

*All:* **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.**

### AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
grant us your peace.**

### HOLY COMMUNION

✙ Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

*All:* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*The Priest elevates the Host saying:*

The Body of Christ.

*All:* **Amen.**

*After receiving the Body of Christ  
the Priest elevates the Chalice saying:*

The Blood of Christ.

*All:* **Amen.**

*After receiving from the Chalice, he says the  
Communion Antiphon*

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,  
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

*Please come forward as directed by the stewards to receive Holy  
Communion or a blessing. During the pandemic, Holy Communion  
will be in one kind only (The Body of Christ), administered as follows:*



*Please approach the table, hold your hands out at arm's length, palms up and open as flat as possible.*

*There are no spoken words at the giving of Communion, and you are asked, please, to make no spoken response.*

*After receiving, adjust your face covering and return to your place.*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment,  
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,  
that through our partaking in this mystery,  
you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth  
and hold firm to the things of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*All:* **Amen.**

*We make our thanksgiving to God as we say together:*

**Almighty God we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

### NOTICES

*Please sit*

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

**THURSDAY 24th DECEMBER:** CHRISTMAS EVE  
FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS 8 p.m.  
with Blessing of the Crib

**FRIDAY 25th DECEMBER**  
MASS OF CHRISTMAS MORNING 10 a.m.

Due to the current restriction on the number of people allowed in the church, it has been seen advisable that we take "bookings" for both these services. This includes the 'regular' congregation and any visitors they might bring.

Posters are to put on the doors for anyone that might pass in advance to check service times. All will need to contact Val who will compile a list of names and keep a check on numbers.

01444 235305 valbroom1944@gmail.com

The Lord be with you

*All:* **And also with you**

Bow down and pray for God's blessing.  
May the almighty and merciful God,  
by whose grace you have placed your faith  
in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son  
and yearn for his coming again,  
sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent  
and enrich you with his blessing.

*All:* **Amen.**

As you run the race of this present life.  
may he make you firm in faith, joyful in hope, and active in charity.

*All:* **Amen.**

As you rejoice now with devotion  
at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh,  
may you be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life  
when he comes again in majesty.

*All:* **Amen.**

And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son ✝ and the Holy  
Spirit come down upon you and remain with you always.

*All:* **Amen.**

Go forth in peace – Proclaim the Good News!

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

***After Mass had ended, please leave the church promptly.***

***As we are in Tier 2, no social interaction is allowed inside the church building (except between a single household or bubble)***

***Please keep social distance of 2 metres at all times when possible, sign out and sanitise your hands before leaving. Obviously, there will be no refreshments served after Mass,***

***For your information AND for hygiene and safety reasons, please take this service sheet away with you.***

**Our thanks go to Fr. Clay, Jonathan, and Val for keeping us safe during our time at church, and to all who help out in any way.**