A Service of the Word • Sunday 15th November 2026
The Second Sunday before Advent

Zoom: 9.50 Session opens 9.55 Gathering Music

10.00 **Introduction, Greeting**

May the Lord be with you: **All: and also with you.**

Lift up your heads, O Gates, be lifted up, you everlasting doors:

And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is the King of Glory?

The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O Gates, be lifted up, you everlasting doors:

And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of Glory?

The Lord of hosts, he is the King of Glory!

We have come together ...

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 39

1. Hills of the North, rejoice, river and mountain-spring,
   hark to the advent voice; valley and lowland, sing.
   Christ comes in righteousness and love, he brings salvation from above.
2. Isles of the Southern seas,
   sing to the listening earth,
   carry on every breeze
   hope of a world's new birth:
   In Christ shall all be made anew,
   his word is sure, his promise true.
3. Lands of the East, arise,
   he is your brightest morn,
   greet him with joyous eyes,
   praise shall his path adorn:
   your seers have longed to know their Lord;
   to you he comes, the final word.
4. Shores of the utmost West,
   lands of the setting sun,
   welcome the heavenly guest
   in whom the dawn has come:
   he brings a never-ending light
   who triumphed o'er our darkest night.
5. Shout, as you journey home,
   songs be in every mouth,
   lo, from the North they come,
   from East and West and South:
   in Jesus all shall find their rest,
   in him the universe be blest.

Confession

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

Absolution

Gloria *(said)*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect for The Second Sunday before Advent

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah *Zephaniah 1.7,12-18*

This is the word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

Psalm 90. 1-8, 12 ***Refrain: O Lord my God, in you I take refuge.***

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians *1 Thessalonians 5.1-11*

This is the word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

Hymn 57

1. Ye servants of the Lord, each in his office wait,
observant of his heavenly word, and watchful at his gate.
2. Let all your lamps be bright,
and trim the golden flame;
gird up your loins as in his sight,
for aweful is his name.
3. Watch! 'tis your Lord's command,
and while we speak, he's near;
mark the first signal of his hand,
and ready all appear.
4. O happy servant he
in such a posture found!
he shall his Lord with rapture see,
and be with honour crowned.
5. Christ shall the banquet spread
with his own royal hand,
and raise that faithful servant's head
amid the angelic band.

Gospel Reading *please stand* *Matthew 25. 14-30*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew **All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

After … This is the Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Music for meditation

Lay Leader of Worship Reflections

Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. *cf Ephesians 3*

Prayers *using the response:*

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Prayerful Hymn 794

1. The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.
2. Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.
3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.
5. Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!
6. And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

The Lord's Prayer

Notices

Peace

Hymn 41

1. Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.
2. Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.
3. Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears;
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!
4. Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Blessing

Dismissal

Let us go in the peace of Christ. **All: Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Closing Music

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