

A Liturgy for Sundays

adapted from a liturgy written by the Right Reverend Deon K. Johnson

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

*You are invited to prepare a sacred space before worship.
You may want to include: a cross, a bible, candles,
an Advent wreath, a percussion instrument,
or any other additional prayer aids (prayer beads, icons, etc.).*

Prelude: Hand Bells

Three for Eight: Promise, Pardon, and Plaint

Raymond H. Herbek

Welcome from the Vicar

Gathering: Liturgy of the Word

The people of God gather together.

A bell rings out. Silence is kept.

Opening Hymn

Sleepers, Wake!

H 62



1 "Sleep - ers, wake!" A voice a - stounds us, the shout of ram-part
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her heart with joy - ful
3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let saints and an - gels



guards sur-rounds us: "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"
hope is spring - ing, she wakes and hur - ries through the night.
sing be - fore you, as harps and cym - bals swell the sound.



Mid - night's peace their cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum-mons
Forth he comes, her Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in
Twelve great pearls, the ci - ty's por - tals: through them we stream to



clear - ly spo - ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!
truth vic - to - rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
join the im - mor - tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in sight.
 Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate Word,
 No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de - light:

Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and has - ten there,
 Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and heed your call
 Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to greet our King;

that you the wed - ding feast may share.”
 to come in - to the ban - quet hall.
 for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944) Copyright ©1982, Carl P. Daw, Jr. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
 Music: *Wachet auf*, melody Hans Sachs (1494-1576); adapt Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); harm. Jakob Praetorius (1586-1651)

Opening Rite: Liturgy of Light

All stand, and the officiant greets the people with these words.

Officiant: Dear friends in the risen Christ, we gather today to celebrate the Lord’s day, and for a time to be united in prayer and praise with each other and those who have gone before us. Sunday has been called the Lord’s Day because it was on this day that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life. As we gather (in-person and/or online), let us be united in the spirit of Christ with the Church around the world and celebrate our redemption in Christ’s suffering, death and resurrection.

Silence is kept for a time.

Officiant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant: It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus’ sake. For the same God who said, “Out of darkness let light shine,” has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation — the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Corinthians 4:5-6

The Advent candles are lit in our homes and in our church as we listen to the song “Light One Candle.”

Hymn

Light One Candle

Natalie Sleeth

The Confession

As we worship we ask God's forgiveness for things done and things left undone and things done on our behalf so that we are reconciled to God and each other.

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Silence is kept for a time.

Officiant: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

People: **We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

Officiant: For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

People: **That we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

People: **Amen.**

Opening Acclamation

The Officiant then says

Officiant: Our Savior now draws near.

People: **Come, let us adore him.**

Officiant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.

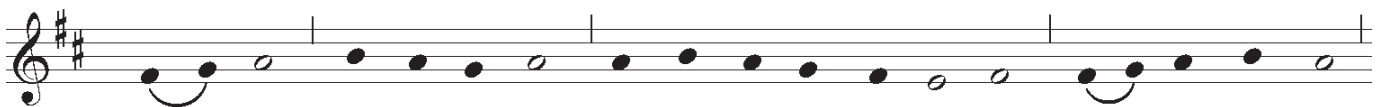
Song of Praise

Gloria in Excelsis

S 277



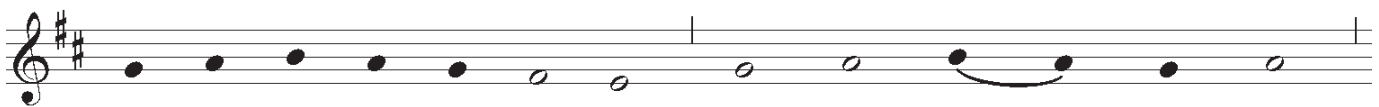
1. Glo - ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



2. Lord God, hea-ven-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you,



we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,



on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

4. you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us;

5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Officiant: God is with you.
 People: **And also with you.**

The Officiant continues with the prayer appointed for the day called the collect. The collect is written to go along with both the season of the church year and the readings of the day. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scripture of the day.

Officiant: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your 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 living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Readings

We hear the stories of the experience of God from our spiritual ancestors. Reading and commenting on scripture goes back to the earliest services of Christianity. Following the pattern of Jewish synagogue worship, readings follow a set pattern for what will be read when. One or two Lessons, as appointed, are read.

Isaiah 64:1-9

Reader: A reading from the Hebrew Bible.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence —

as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil —

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The psalms are a part of the poetry of the Hebrew people. They express joy and sadness, loneliness and thanksgiving as part of the human longing to be united with God.

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a / flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the / cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Ma/nasseh,
stir up your strength and come to / help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of / hosts,
how long will you be / angered
despite the prayers of your / people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of / tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to / drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our / neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to / scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of / hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be / saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right / hand,
the son of man you have made so strong for your/self.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from / you;
give us life, that we may call upon your / Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of / hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be / saved.

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Reader: A reading from the New Testament Writings.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

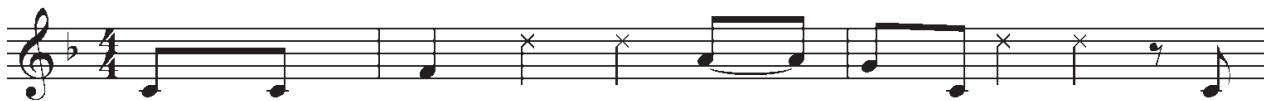
Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Stay Awake, Be Ready

MHSO 62



Stay a - wake (clap, clap) be read - y. You
Change your lives, he's com - ing. The
Go _____ back, tell John
By the pow'r of the Spi - rit



do not know the hour when the Lord is com - ing. Stay a -
one who is the light of the world is com - ing. Change your
all that you have heard and have seen me do - ing. Go _____
Mar - y will give birth to a son called Jc - sus. By the



wake, be read - y. The Lord is com - ing soon!
lives, he's com - ing. The reign of God is near!
back, tell John the wond - ers that you see.
pow'r of the Spi - rit Em - man - u - el is near.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
The Lord is com - ing
The reign of God is
The won - ders that you
Em - man - u - el is

The Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Reader: Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,

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.

“Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 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 tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; 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 slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

At the end of the Gospel the Officiant says

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

Having someone comment on the Scriptures goes back to the earliest days of Christianity and to the Jewish Synagogue worship which preceded it.

Affirmation of Faith

Originally the entire service was viewed as our confession of faith. However, since the Sixth Century, the church has recited either the Nicene Creed or the Apostle’s Creed at the Eucharist. The word creed comes from the Latin credo for “I believe” or “I lend my heart to.”

Officiant: Let us affirm our faith.

Do you believe in God?

People: **We believe in God the Father the almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

Officiant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: **We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Officiant: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: **We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Prayer changes people. Prayer is not about changing God but about changing us more into the likeness of God. collectively and individually we offer the hopes and desires of our hearts to God.

Deacon: O God whose Messiah's coming we await, keep us awake and alert to watch for the signs of your coming. As the fig tree puts forth its leaves and the portents of the new day dawns, keep us awake and alert for the second advent of Christ our Savior, and hear us as we pray, Christ our hope, shine in our hearts.

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to our humble calling to be the church of Christ in the world. Empower all bishops, priests and deacons to proclaim justice and truth as they care for your holy people. We pray for the people and ministry of Christ Church Cathedral and Kathie their dean, Helen their assisting priest, and Susan and Barbi their deacons; and for the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to the needs and wants of the nations of the world. Enlighten the leaders of the nations to attend to the needs of the lowest and the least, the last and the left-out, that justice and peace may be our strength and equity our common good. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to the needs of the sick and suffering. Embolden our love that we may care with compassion for those in need especially Noel, Jack, Roger, Ernie, Rosie, Paul, Mary, and Jude. May they know of the healing love and power of Jesus. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to the needs of friends and strangers. Energize this community of faith to reach out with compassion to transform our neighborhoods and communities to reflect the beloved community of peace. We remember those who have asked for our prayers, Kenny, Virginia, Nancy, Beth, Linda Rose, Fr. Al and Deacon Dayna, and Melissa. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to those who mourn, those who grieve and those who are despondent or depressed. Enable us to be Christ hands of healing and wholeness that we may be agents of comfort and hope. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to the shortness of our time. Enfold those who have ended their course on earth and have joined the martyrs and saints in the region of light especially parishioners Vernon Alexander, Darla Becker, and Jack Doerr, and Lela Deane. May we, in our own time, come to the joys of your eternal reign. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: At this time, I bid your intercessions and prayers of thanksgiving, either silently or aloud.

For all who are viewing virtually, you will be “unmuted” at this time to offer your biddings of joy, concern, or thanksgiving.

Officiant: O God, encourage, embolden and energize your people to keep awake and alert to the coming of Jesus the Christ, that he, at his second Advent, may find us ready to greet him and eager to serve those in need; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

The Prayers conclude with the following.

Officiant: God of love, our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your Church, and grant us today what we ask of you in faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant: Let us pray in the way that Christ taught us.

People: **God of love, our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your Church, and grant us today what we ask of you in faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. 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 Conclusion

Officiant: God of all creation, rekindle within us this Sabbath day the vision of your kingdom so that our daily concerns and labor may find their proper perspective.

People: **Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel and give us the grace to see the face of Christ in the people with whom we live. We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God; that we who have celebrated Christ's resurrection this day share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace

Officiant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

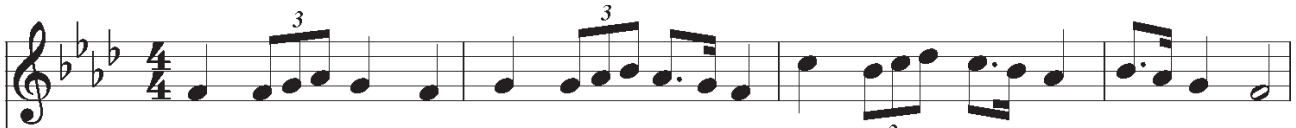
We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ.

Announcements

Closing Hymn

Signs of Endings All Around Us

WLP 721



1. Signs of end-ings all a - round us— dark - ness, death, and win - ter days
2. Can it be that from our end - ings, new be - gin - nings you cre - ate?
3. Speak, O God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren lives your pres - ence fill.



shroud our lives in fear and sad - ness, numb - ing mouths that long to praise.
Life from death, and from our rend - ings, realms of whole - ness gen - er - ate?
Swell our hearts with songs of glad - ness, ter - rors calm fore - bod - ings still.



Come, O Christ, and dwell a - mong us! Hear our cries, come set us free.
Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them in - to hopes for life a - new:
Let your prom - ised realm of jus - tice blos - som now through - out the earth;



Give us hope and faith and glad - ness. Show us what there yet can be.
Fad - ing light and dy - ing sea - son sing their Glo - ri - as to you.
your do - min - ion bring now near us; we a - wait the sav - ing birth.

The Sending

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

People: **Amen.**

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer Lists

Our homebound parishioners: Noel and Jack

Our parishioners: Roger, Ernie, Rosie, Paul, Mary, and Jude

For those who have asked for prayers: For Kenny, Virginia, Nancy, Beth, Linda Rose, Fr. Al & Deacon Dayna, and Melissa; first responders, healthcare professionals, and educators who continue to work during this pandemic; medical researchers searching for a vaccine for COVID-19

For those who have died and those who mourn: For parishioners Vernon Alexander, who died October 22, and Darla Becker, who died November 16, and for Lela Deane, Jackie Selle's grandmother who died November 17; for parishioner Jack Doerr, who died November 27; for those who have suffered loss from natural disasters across our country; for the law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty in 2020 and their families; and for the youth in St. Louis who have suffered directly from gun violence this year and those whose lives were lost and their families

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: For the people and ministry of Christ Church Cathedral and Kathie their dean, Helen their assisting priest, and Susan and Barbi their deacons

Companion Diocese of Lui, South Sudan: For the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, and Archbishop Justin Badi Arama

For those committed to our ongoing prayers: Deaconess Anne House interns; those discerning a call to ordained ministry; the ministry of the chaplains, staff, volunteers at Episcopal City Mission, and the youth in detention and their families; patients, families, & communities affected by substance use disorders; those suffering from untreated & undertreated pain and chronic diseases; those who serve in our military; those who are affected by COVID-19