



Grace Lutheran Church Redcliffe
Service Order For 5th December,
Second Sunday in Advent



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

LORD God, loving Father:
You sent Your servant John the Baptist
to summon the people to repentance.
Fill us with Your Spirit,
that we may see the wisdom of Your Scripture,
and its message will be inscribed upon our hearts;
in Jesus' name. Amen.

OPENING SENTENCE: Luke 3:4

*Prepare the way of the Lord,
make His paths straight.*

**Prepare the way of the Lord,
make His paths straight.**

INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

THE CANDLES OF ADVENT
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: PEACE

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. The second candle of Advent is the Candle of Peace. It is sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle to remind us of the place in which preparations were made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

Peace is a gift that we must be prepared for. God gives us the gift of peace.

The prophet Isaiah calls Christ "the Prince of Peace."

Through John the Baptist, and all the other prophets,
God asks us to prepare our hearts so that He may come in.

So let us pray that we are ready for Jesus.

Let us pray: *(PAUSE)*

Loving God, thank You for the peace You give us through Jesus.
Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship.
May Your peace, which passes all understanding, guard our hearts and minds,
while we wait for Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to return.
We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

We sing the song “The Candle of Peace” as we light this candle today
to remind us that Jesus brings us His peace.

The Candle of Peace

Tune LHS 454: Hanover

**The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan;
the wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war,
will give way to gardens that heal and restore.**

**Our God rules on high, almighty to save;
and still He is nigh: His presence we have.
the great congregation His triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our king.**

CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins, and repent of
all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your punishment in time and in
eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and
death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us,
and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right to
become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will
be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.*

INTROIT: From Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸ *‘Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for He has looked favourably on His people
and redeemed them.*

⁶⁹ *He has raised up a mighty saviour for us
in the house of His servant David,
⁷⁰ as He spoke through the mouth
of His holy prophets from of old.*

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel!

⁷² *He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered His holy covenant,*

⁷³ *the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us ⁷⁴ that we,*

*being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve Him without fear,*

⁷⁵ *in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.*

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel!

⁷⁶ *And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways,
⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to His people
by the forgiveness of their sins.*

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel!

⁷⁸ *By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.'*

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel!

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray that we are ready for Christ's coming.
[silence]*

Merciful God,
you sent your messengers to preach repentance
and prepare the way for our salvation.
Turn us away from our sins,
so that we greet our coming redeemer,
Jesus Christ, with joy.
For he lives
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4 The day of judgment is near

¹ "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. ² "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He *is* like a refiner's fire and like launderers' soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness. ⁴ "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the LORD, as in the days of old, as in former years.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11 Be ready for the day of Christ

³ I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. ⁴ I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy. ⁵ I'm glad because of the way you have been my partners in the ministry of the gospel from the time you first believed it until now. ⁶ I'm sure about this: the One who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷ I have good reason to think this way about all of you because I keep you in my heart. You are all my partners in God's grace, both during my time in prison and in the defence and support of the gospel. ⁸ God is my witness that I feel affection for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ This is my prayer: that your love might become even more and more rich with knowledge and all kinds of insight. ¹⁰ I pray this so that you will be able to decide what really matters and so you will be sincere and blameless on the day of Christ. ¹¹ I pray that you will then be filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes from Jesus Christ, in order to give glory and praise to God.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
A voice cries out in the desert:
Prepare the way of the Lord,
and make His paths straight.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6 All people will see the salvation of our God

Before the reading
Glory be to You, O LORD.

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

After the reading
This is the gospel of the LORD.
Praise be to You, O Christ.

Thank you, Lord Jesus,
for coming to bring God's salvation.
Help us to prepare the way for your coming.
Amen.

LHS 13: On Jordan's bank (click [here](#))

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord nigh;
come then and hearken, for he brings glad tidings from the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be every heart from sin; make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home where such a mighty guest may come.**

**For You are our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without Your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.**

**To heal the sick stretch out Your hand, and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let Your light restore earth's own true loveliness once more.**

**To Him who left the throne of heaven to free us all, let praise be given;
and praise be to the Father done, and Holy Spirit, Three in One.**

Charles Coffin 1676-1749 Tr John Chandler 1806-76 alt.

SERMON (click [here](#))

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon, or Read and Discuss the Sermon
The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.
For LCA Worship Resources (click [here](#))

NICENE 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 of the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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.

AT 514: God of light (click [here](#))

God of light, we are waiting for You. God of light, we are waiting for You.
God of hope and mercy, God of power and peace. God of light, we are waiting for You.

We will call You Immanuel. We will call You Immanuel.
Behold, a virgin will give birth to a son. We will call You Immanuel.

You will save Your people from sin. You will save Your people from sin.
Immanuel, Immanuel. You will save Your people from sin.

Prepare for the reign of our Lord. Prepare for the reign of our Lord.
God's rule will be without end, amen. Prepare for the reign of our Lord.

Maranatha, Lord Jesus, come. Maranatha, Lord Jesus, come.
Guide our feet into the way of peace. Maranatha, Lord Jesus, come.

God of light, we are waiting for You. God of light, we are waiting for You.
God of hope and mercy, God of power and peace. God of light, we are waiting for You.

Gail Berberick Text based on Matthew 1:21-23; Luke 1:33, 79 © OCP Publications. Used under Licence.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

John the Baptist came to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus Christ. Let us pray for God's help and healing through Christ.

Heavenly Father: We praise and thank you for the cleansing waters of baptism and our adoption as your heirs and co-heirs with Christ. Strengthen our faith and bless all who are preparing for baptism at this time, and those undergoing instruction.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Bless and watch over your church as it prepares for the celebration of the birth of Christ. Help us all to prepare for the coming of Christ by living a life of repentance. May the light of Christ uncover our sin so that we might be released from its destructive power.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the missions of the church and those called to preach the gospel. May all those who hear the gospel believe the good news and turn to you in faith. Help us to prepare the way for the gospel by pursuing justice in our society. Be with our pastors and lay workers and fill them with your spirit of truth and love. Call and inspire more people to serve you in public ministry for the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Graciously protect us from fire and flood, from war and disease, from famine and strife and from every kind of disaster. Support all people in their proper vocation, and help all those who are unemployed. Bless our arts and culture, our science and technology. Be with all widows and widowers, and provide for all children who have lost their parents. Help those who are sick and in need, and comfort those who are lonely and in trouble, in particular we uphold to you in prayer Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord God, as your servant John the Baptist called your people to prepare a way for the Lord, let us always be prepared to receive the blessings that you freely give us through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Let us bless the LORD.
God be praised forevermore.
Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel!
For He has visited and redeemed His people.
The LORD bless us and keep us.
The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.
Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

*May the LORD help you to stand strong in your faith
and be ready for His coming again.*
**May the LORD help you to stand strong in your faith
and be ready for His coming again.**

WORDS OF SENDING

*Go in peace, with courage and hope,
to love and serve the LORD.*
In the name of Christ. Amen.

LHS 346: Forth in Your name, O Lord, I go (click [here](#))

**Forth in Your name, O Lord, I go my daily labour to pursue;
You, Lord, alone I long to know in all I think or speak or do.**

**The task Your wisdom has assigned here let me cheerfully fulfil;
in all my work Your presence find and prove Your good and perfect will.**

**You I would set at my right hand whose eyes my inmost secrets view;
and labour on at Your command and offer all my work to You.**

**Help me to bear Your easy yoke and every moment watch and pray;
and still to things eternal look and hasten to that glorious day.**

**Gladly for You may I employ all that Your generous grace has given;
and run my earthly course with joy, and closely walk with You to heaven.**

Charles Wesley, alt (1707 - 1788)

HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading: Malachi 3:1-4

LHS

- 1 Hark, a herald voice is calling* G7
8 Rise, children of the kingdom* G4
485 The day is surely drawing near* (vv 1,6) G5

AT

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Second reading: Philippians 1:3-11

LHS

- 355 May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfil* G3
381 O God our Father, throned on high G7 (*alt tune 391, G9*)

AT

- 310 Yesu, Yesu
357 Give us hearts to know you, Lord
360 Help us

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

LHS

- 6 Ye sons of men, in earnest* G3
12 Comfort, comfort ye My people* G4
13 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry G4
732 Comfort, comfort all my people GS
737 Prepare the royal highway G4

AT

- 25 Comfort, comfort