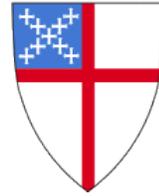


Lessons for December 10th, 2017
Second Sunday of Advent



First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Hear the Word of God as it is written in Isaiah chapter 40 verses 1 to 11.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Let us all stand and read Psalm 85 verses 1 to 2 and 8 to 13, responsively by verse.

1

You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

2

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.

8

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.

9

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

10

Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11

Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12

The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

13

Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Hear the Word of God as it is written in Second Peter chapter 3 verses 8 to 15a.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

This is the Word of the Lord.