

## **The Sunday Missive -- December 8, 2024 The Second Sunday in Advent**

### **76 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry**

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

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come.

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

All praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent doth thy people free;  
Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-n\\_iUv9NII](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-n_iUv9NII)

### **Hymn 56 O come, O come Emmanuel Verses 3 & 4**

O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times did give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem, unto your own and rescue them!  
From depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qclIZpnZPgo>

### **The Collect of the Day**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach  
repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to  
heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy  
the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## **Baruch 5:1-9**

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

## **The Song of Zechariah**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel\* ***Who has come to the people and set them free.***

God has raised up for us a mighty savior\* ***Born of the house of David.***

Through the holy prophets promised of old\* ***That we would be saved from our enemies; from the hands of all who hate us.***

God promised to show mercy to our forbears\* ***And to remember the holy covenant.***

The oath that was sworn to our father Abraham\* ***To set us free from the hands of our enemies,***

Free to worship the Lord without fear\* ***Holy and righteous in God's sight all the days of our life.***

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High\* ***For you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,***

To give God's people knowledge of salvation\* ***By the forgiveness of their sins.***

In the tender compassion of our God\* ***The dawn from on high shall break upon us,***

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death\*  
***And to guide our feet into the way of peace.***

### **Philippians 1:3-11**

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

### **75 There's a voice in the wilderness crying**

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;  
Make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!

O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.

Like the flowers of the field they perish, like grass our works decay,  
The power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away;

But the word of our God endureth, the arm of the Lord is strong;  
He stands in the midst of nations, and he will right the wrong.  
He shall feed His flock like a shepherd, the lambs he'll gently hold;  
To pastures of peace he'll lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mA73oyWm5gg>

### **Luke 3:1-6**

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, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 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. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

### **67 Comfort, comfort ye my people**

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,  
Calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;  
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;  
And all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGURM EVT8M>

### **A Prayer**

As I lie in bed,  
Flat on my back;  
There passes across my ceiling  
An endless panorama of things—  
Quick steps of gay-voiced children,  
Adolescence in its wondering silences,  
Maid and man on moonlit summer's eve,  
Women in the holy glow of Motherhood,  
Old men gazing silently thru the twilight  
Into the beyond.  
O God, give me words to make my dream-children live.

Joseph Seamon Cotter, Jr.