

A Service of the Word • Sunday 7th December 2025

The Second Sunday of Advent

9.55 Gathering Music

10.00 Introduction, Greeting

In the name of the Father...

The Lord be with you:

We wait for your loving-kindness, O God,

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed

Show us your mercy, O Lord,

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

All: and also with you.

All: in the midst of your temple.

All: and all flesh shall see it together.

All: and grant us your salvation.

All: who made heaven and earth.

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 42

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

shared until all are fed.

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

walls made of living stone.

5. Many the gifts, many the people,

many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

making your kingdom come.

Confession

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

All: Lord, have mercy

All: Christ, have mercy

All: Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

Collect for The Second Sunday of Advent

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

This is the word of the Lord

Isaiah 11. 1-10

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm 72.1-7, 18, 19

Refrain: The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

This is the word of the Lord

Romans 15. 4-13

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn 46

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

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

3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

4. 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.

5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Gospel Reading *please stand*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

After ... This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Matthew 3.1-12

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Anthem for meditation *Christ whose glory fills the skies (Darke)*

Homily *The Vicar*

Affirmation of faith, The Apostles' Creed

We say together in faith:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:

for by his will they were created and have their being.

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:

for with his blood, he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit –

the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' Even so, come Lord Jesus! Amen.

c.f. Revelation 4. 8, 11; 5.9; 22.17

Prayers using the response:

Come, Lord Jesus: **make us complete.**

The Lord's Prayer

Prayerful Hymn 56

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| 1. Word of justice, alleluia,
come to dwell here. Maranatha! | 7. Word of gladness, alleluia,
fill our hearts now. Maranatha! |
| 2. Word of mercy, alleluia,
live among us. Maranatha! | 8. Word of wisdom, alleluia,
Come, renew us. Maranatha! |
| 3. Word of power, alleluia,
live within us. Maranatha! | 9. Word we long for, alleluia,
Word we thirst for. Maranatha! |
| 4. Word of freedom, alleluia,
save your people. Maranatha! | 10. Key of David, alleluia,
Son of Mary. Maranatha! |
| 5. Word of healing, alleluia,
heal our sorrow. Maranatha! | 11. Cry of prophets, alleluia,
hope of ages. Maranatha! |
| 6. Word of comfort, alleluia,
bring us hope now. Maranatha! | 12. Light of nations, alleluia,
light in darkness. Maranatha! |

Notices

The Peace

Hymn 27

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| 1. Colours of day dawn into the mind, the sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street, and let's give the message to the people we meet.
<i>So light up the fire and let the flame burn, open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow, tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.</i> | 3. Open your eyes, look into the sky,
The darkness has come, the sun came to die.
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
But Jesus is living, his Spirit is near. |
| 2. Go through the park, on into the town;
the sun still shines on; it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
the people of darkness are needing a friend. | |

Advent Candle Prayers for The Second Sunday of Advent

Blessed be God for ever!

All: Blessed be God for ever!

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever. Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets, but in our days you speak through your Son, whom you have appointed the heir of all things. Grant us, your people, to walk in his light, that we may be found ready and watching when he comes again in glory and judgement; for you are our light and our salvation.

All: Blessed be God for ever!

Lord Jesus, light of the world, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people in trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmas and show all the world God's love. Amen.

God our Father, you spoke to the prophets of old of a Saviour who would bring peace. You helped them to spread the joyful message of his coming kingdom. Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, to share with those around us the good news of your power and love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Closing Music

No Collection is taken, please donate by Text or leave a gift (in a completed gift aid envelope if you are able to do so) in the Offertory Plates or by contactless card giving as you leave. Thank you. We are encouraging supporters of the church to give by Bank Transfer to support our work. Details are on our website at www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk or contact the Parish Office at church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk

Thank you for joining this service, whether by Zoom or in person.