

Morning Prayer for Stalham & Smallburgh Benefices

29th November 2020 – Advent Sunday

The Lord is good,
a strong refuge when trouble comes.
God is close to those who trust in him.

Nahum 1.7

Lighting of the first Advent Candle

People of God: awake!
The day is coming soon
when you shall see God face to face.
Remember the ways and the works of God.
God calls you out of darkness
to walk in the light of his coming.
You are God's children.

**Lord, make us one
as we walk with Christ
today and for ever. Amen.**

Hymn

- 1 O come, O come Emmanuel,
redeem thy captive Israel,
that into exile drear is gone,
far from the face of God's dear son.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*
- 2 O come, thou branch of Jesse, draw
the quarry from the lion's claw;
from the dread caverns of the grave,
from nether hell, thy people save.
Refrain
- 3 O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright.
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
and pierce the shadows of the tomb.
Refrain
- 4 O Come, thou Lord of David's Key.
The royal door fling wide and free;

safeguard for us the heavenward road,
and bar the way to death's abode.

Refrain

- 5 O come, O come, Adonai,
who in thy glorious majesty
from that high mountain clothed in awe,
gavest thy folk the elder Law.

Refrain

*Latin 13th century, translated by T. A. Lacey (1853-1931)
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Opening Sentences

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

The night has passed,
and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Pause for reflection as you offer the day to God.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence,
O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. Amen.

Confession

Loving Father, we confess that we have failed you in
thought, word and deed.
We ask for your mercy and your help.

**God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought and
said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us for all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm

Psalm 80.1-8

Refrain: Turn us again, O God; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock;
- 2 **Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.**
- 3 Stir up your mighty strength and come to our salvation.
- 4 **Turn us again, O God; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
- 5 O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?
- 6 **You feed them with the bread of tears; you give them abundance of tears to drink.**
- 7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 8 **Turn us again, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Bible Readings

The full text of the readings can be found in Pews News.

At the end of the reading

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to...

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

This week's reflection has been written by Martyn Egerton. You can find the full text of the reflection in Pews News.

The Creed

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Almighty God,
keep us faithful to you
and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect
in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Prayers

The response in our prayers is
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

And at the end
Merciful Father, **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

*This week's prayers have been written by Wendy Smith
and you can find the full text in Pews News.*

Almighty and everlasting God,
we thank you that you have brought us safely to the
beginning of this day.
Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger;
order us in all our doings and guide us to do always
what is righteous in your sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Collect

Almighty God,
As your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin
to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn

1 Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

2 Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

3 Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears;
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars.

4 Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly, O come quickly,
O come quickly,
alleluia! come, Lord, come!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), Martin Madan (1726-1790), John Cennick (1718-1755)

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.