



# Welcome to St Alban's

## Advent 2

OPENING HYMN @Paul Inwood 1986

*We shall draw water joyfully, singing joyfully, singing joyfully;  
We shall draw water joyfully from the wellsprings of salvation.*

1. Truly God is our salvation,  
we trust, we shall not fear.  
For the Lord is our strength, our song;  
He became our Saviour.

*Refrain*

2. Give thanks, O give thanks to the Lord;  
Give praise to his holy name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to all of the nations;  
Proclaim his greatness.

*Refrain*

3. Sing a psalm, sing a psalm to the Lord  
For he has done glorious deeds.  
Make known his works to all of the earth;  
People of Zion, sing for joy; for great in your midst,  
Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

*Refrain*

*The second candle of the Advent Wreath is lit and we all pray...*

**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**

*We are gathered together as one body*

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

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins...

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you  
† pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in life eternal.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

#### THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again  
as judge and saviour, we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God.  
**Amen.**

#### NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Peter 3.8-15a

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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>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? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

THE GOSPEL Mark 1.1-8

**Alleluia, Alleluia; Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight”’,

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

*At the end of the reading:* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES CREED *Please stand if you are able*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

*At the end of the prayers we say together:*

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

## THE PEACE *Please stand*

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Blessed be God, by whose grace creation is renewed, by whose love heaven is opened, by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*The president blesses the elements, and the response each time is*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The president recalls the last supper:*

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

*The president continues to praise God for his mighty acts. At the end we say...Amen*

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

**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.  
And 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 for ever. Amen**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

God's holy gifts, for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

*The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the  
Body of Christ of which we are members.*

*In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be  
nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'*

An Act of Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present  
in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.**

**I love you above all things and I passionately desire  
to receive you into my soul.**

**Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my soul**

**so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and for ever. Amen.**

*Post communion prayer:*

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him in the humility  
and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Through Him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen**

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy,  
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,  
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
and the blessing ...

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**

HYMN *Graham Kendrick* © 1986 *Kingsway's Thankyou Music*

**1. Make way, make way, for Christ the King  
in splendour arrives.  
Fling wide the gates and welcome him  
into your lives.**

*Make way! (Make way!)  
Make way! (Make way!)  
for the King of kings.  
(for the King of kings.)  
Make way! (Make way!)  
Make way! (Make way!)  
and let His kingdom in.*

**2. He comes the broken hearts to heal,  
the prisoners to free.  
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,  
the blind shall see.  
*Make way!....***

**3. And those who mourn with heavy hearts,  
who weep and sigh;  
with laughter, joy and royal crown  
he'll beautify.**

***Make way! (Make way!)  
Make way! (Make way!)  
for the King of kings.  
(for the King of kings.)  
Make way! (Make way!)  
Make way! (Make way!)  
and let His kingdom in.***

**4. We call you now to worship him  
as Lord of all.  
To have no gods before him,  
their thrones must fall!  
*Make way!...***

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