Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2020

Prelude: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height,
In ancient times once gave the Law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel.

O come O Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them,
That trust your mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel.

Entrance Antiphon

People of Zion behold, the Lord is coming to save all nations;
And the Lord shall cause you to hear his majestic voice for the joy of your heart.

To Our Lady, Mother of Advent
To Our Lady, Mother of Advent, O Mother of our Advent, be with us and see to it that he will remain with us in this difficult Advent of the struggles for truth and hope, for justice and peace: He, alone, Emmanuel.
Reading 1: Isaiah 40:1-5; 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news!

Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

Responsorial Psalm 85

I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.

Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.

Reading 2: 2 Peter 3:8-14

The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:
Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Offertory Hymn: Comfort, Comfort, O My People

Comfort, comfort, O my people, speak of peace, now says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning beneath their sorrows’ load.
Speak unto Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell of all the sins I cover, and that warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one who’s crying in the desert far and near,
Bidding all to full repentance since the kingdom is now here.
O 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.
Communion Antiphon

*Arise, O Jerusalem, and stand on high;*
*And behold the joy that shall come to you from your God.*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things and I desire to possess You within my soul.
Since I am unable at this moment to receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there,
and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Communion Anthem: Lift Thine Eyes

*Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh help. 
Thy help cometh from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. 
He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved. 
Thy Keeper will never slumber.*

Recessional Hymn:
Alma Redemptoris Mater

*Loving Mother of the Redeemer, who remains the accessible gateway of Heaven, and Star of the Sea, Give aid to a falling people that strives to rise; O Thou who begot thy holy Creator, while all nature marvelled, Virgin before and after receiving that 'Ave' from the mouth of Gabriel, Have mercy on sinners.*

Communion Meditation: O Come, Divine Messiah

*O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day 
When hope shall sing its triumph, And sadness flee away.*

*[Refrain] Dear Savior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dispel the night and show your face, 
And bid us hail the dawn of grace. O come, Divine Messiah! 
The world in silence waits the day. 
When hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away.*

*O come, desired of nations, whom priest and prophet long foretold. 
Come break the captive's fetters, redeem the long-lost fold.*

*O come in peace and meekness, for lowly will your cradle be: 
Though clothed in human weakness we shall your Godhead see. [Refrain]*