



**ST. DAVID'S ON-THE-HILL
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Second Sunday of Advent**

December 10, 2023

**The Reverend Edward G. Beaudreau, Jr.
Priest-in-Charge**

Entrance Hymn: "Hark! A thrilling voice" H 59

Collect for 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.*

Old Testament

The First Lesson

**First Reading: A Reading from Isaiah
Chapter 40:1-11**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says
your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term, that
her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make
straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every
mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and
the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be
revealed, and all people shall see it
together, for the mouth of the LORD has
spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass, their constancy is like the
flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the
breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely
the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the
word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift
up your voice with strength, O
Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it
up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah, “Here
is your God!”

See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and
his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him, and his
recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom, and
gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord
85: 1-2, 8-13

People: Thanks be to God Psalm

1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.

8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who
fear him, * that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, * and
righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him, * and
peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The Second Lesson

A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter

Chapter 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. 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. 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.

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

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

The Word of the Word **People: Thanks be To God**

Gradual Hymn: “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” H 616

The Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 1: 1-8

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

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 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

