Sunday, December 6, 2026
Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

Collect of the Day (Contemporary)

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*.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

[1]"Comfort, O comfort my people,"
    says your God.
[2]"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."

[3]A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
    make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
[4]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.
[5]Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
    and all people shall see it together,
    for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

[6]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.
7The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
8The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
9Get 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!”
10See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
11He 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.

Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

1You have been gracious to your land, O Lord; *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
2You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
8I 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.
9Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
10Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
11Truth 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.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

8 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. 9 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. 10 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.
11 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, 12 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? 13 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new
heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

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

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,' "
4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins. 5 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. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist,
and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 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. 8 I have
baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."