

ST CYPRIAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH MORNING PRAYER

Sunday December 10, 2023

FEASTING ON THE WORD

Call to worship:

The Lord is coming to his temple

We watch and wait for his coming

Prepare the way of the Lord

Lighting of the Advent candles:

(Reader 1): We light this candle as a symbol of the purity of heart only God can bring

(Reader 2): For he shall purify his people like gold and silver

Until they shine forth his righteousness

Hymn: *Morning has broken* #8

Call to Confession:

Saints, let us trust in God's love for us and confess our sin, confident in God's mercy

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened

We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign

In our lives, our church, and our society.

Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us.

For the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, AMEN.

Declaration of Forgiveness:

Friends, I am confident of this; if we repent, God is sure to forgive us.

The one who began a good work in us will bring it to completion.

Grateful for the promise of joy and peace, let us share that peace with one another.

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.

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4

1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

4 Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.

Hymn: *Come down O love divine* #516

Matthew 24: 36-44

36“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. 42Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Homily

Apostle's Creed – P 96 BCP

Prayers – P 97 to P102 BCP

God of the future, make us ready for the coming of your reign

When you will bring everlasting peace, and renew the face of the earth

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

Announcements:

Charge:

About that day and hour no one knows, therefore, keep awake

For you do not know on what day your Lord is coming

Be ready, for the Lord will come at an unexpected hour

Blessing

May the Spirit of the Lord surround you

As you walk and wait for his coming

And the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Be amongst you, and those whom you love,

And remain with you, this day, and always, Amen.

Hymn: *Of the Father's love begotten* #82