

HYMNS, PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR  
2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changest thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight  
all laud we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

*Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)*

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

INTRODUCTION

MASS OF ST THOMAS – DAVID THORNE  
*sung by St Martin's Voices*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

We worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

Amen.

O God,  
whose blessed Son was manifested  
that he might destroy the works of the devil  
and make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:  
grant us, we beseech thee, that, having this hope,  
we may purify ourselves, even as he is pure,  
that when he shall appear again with power and great glory  
we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious  
kingdom;  
where with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Spirit,  
he liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

But as to the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

When people say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as travail comes upon a woman with child, and there will be no escape. But you are not in darkness, brethren, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

For those who sleep sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But, since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we wake or sleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

MATTHEW 25:14-30

“For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.'

And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.'

So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'

SERMON

**Thou whose almighty word**  
*sung by St Martin's Voices*

Thou whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight;  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the Gospel-day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light.

Thou, who didst come to bring  
on thy redeeming wing  
healing and sight,  
health to the sick in mind,  
sight to the inly blind,  
O now to all mankind  
let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving, holy Dove,  
speed forth thy flight;  
move o'er the water's face,  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place  
let there be light.

Blessed and holy Three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might;  
boundless as ocean's tide  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the world far and wide  
let there be light.

*John Marriott (1780-1825), Thomas Raffles (1788-1863)*

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is  
in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those  
who trespass against us. And lead us not into  
temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS BY DUDLEY

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will,  
that you may reign with him in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be amongst you and remain with you, always.  
Amen.

Following God's saints in the ways of holiness and truth,  
go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Thy hand, O God, has guided**  
*sung by St Martin's Voices*

Thy hand, O God, has guided  
thy flock, from age to age;  
the wondrous tale is written,  
full clear, on every page;  
our fathers owned thy goodness,  
and we their deeds record;  
and both of this bear witness;  
one Church, one faith, one Lord.



Thy heralds brought glad tidings  
to greatest as to least;  
they bade them rise, and hasten  
to share the great King's feast;  
and this was all their teaching,  
in every deed and word,  
to all alike proclaiming  
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Through many a day of darkness,  
through many a scene of strife,  
the faithful few fought bravely,  
to guard the nation's life.  
Their gospel of redemption,  
sin pardoned, man restored,  
was all in this enfolded:  
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,  
nor leave thy work undone;  
with thy right hand to help us,  
the victory shall be won;  
And then, by men and angels,  
thy name shall be adored,  
and this shall be their anthem:  
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

*Edward Hayes Plumptre (1821-1891)*

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