

The Second Sunday after
Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist Rite II ~ 10:00 a.m.

January 3, 2021



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Saint Theodore's Episcopal Church
Bella Vista, Arkansas

The Right Reverend Larry R. Benfield,
Bishop of Arkansas

Saint Theodore's Episcopal Church

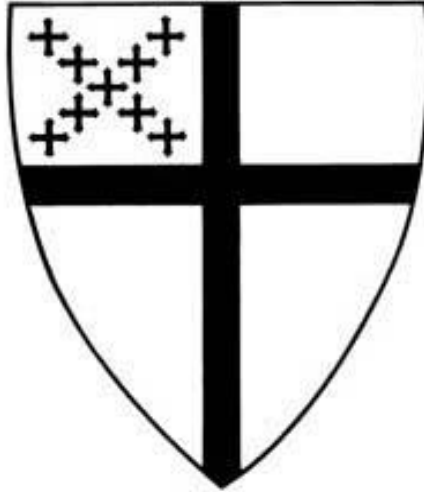
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2020 Vestry

Sharon Moravits, Sr. Warden

Al Addington & Colleen Whitney, Co-Jr. Wardens

Blair Cromwell • David Wade • Joyce Winter

Jerry Schaefer • Bill Schernikau • Carolan Weaver

Diane Landmesser, Clerk

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All of the following service can be found in the
1979 Book of Common Prayer
Scripture lessons are taken from the
Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) for Year B and are from the
New Revised Standard Version of the Bible

Prelude *English Carol setting of "O little town of Bethlehem"* Held
Divinum mysterium Held

The people standing, the celebrant says

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.**
Amen.

Collect for Purity

Celebrant **ALMIGHTY GOD**, to you all hearts are open, all
desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration
of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy Name; through
Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Glory to God

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

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant **O GOD**, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God

Celebrant **GOD OF ALL POWER AND LOVE**, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to

live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lessons *(Sit)*

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
'Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.'

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.'

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84:1-8

Sung by cantor

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of
the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the
living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a
nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my
King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.

- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find
it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of
water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.
Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the

they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon (*Sit*)

Fr. Grisham

The Nicene Creed (*Stand*)

(BCP 358)

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and
glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness
of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant: *Gather your people from the farthest parts of the earth, O Holy One, and let your consolation pour forth, as we sing aloud with radiance over your goodness, saying: Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.*

Litanist: Gracious One, you have blessed the Church with every spiritual blessing from the heavenly places and chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world: Lead us, your children, into holiness, according to the good pleasure of your will, and to the praise of your glorious grace freely bestowed upon us in the Beloved.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,

People: whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Litanist: Redeem all people from the hands that are too strong for them and guide our earthly rulers to lead as benevolent shepherds, that we may be saved from the road of betrayal and violence, so that all life may be like a watered garden and none may ever languish again.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,

People: whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Litanist: Guide those who observe the stars and the mysteries of the natural world and lead all who search for truth and insight, that they may labor to bring forth new hope through a constant rebirth of wisdom and knowledge.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,

People: whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Litanist: Protect all children and families and rescue them from violence, poverty, illness, famine and oppression. Happy are the people whose strength is in you,

People: whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Litanist: Inspire our community to welcome strangers from foreign lands and exotic visitors of many faiths, that we may accept their gifts and honor the truth and goodness in all people and in every culture.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,

People: whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Litanist: Save your people and give ear to our prayer as we remember before you those for whom we are called to pray, especially Don, Rose, Julia, Mike, Amanda, Ben, Becky, Karen Kay, Valerie, Mary, Sue, Mary, family and friends of John Drum, the Rector Search Committee and all those who have contracted Covid-19 and all who care for them. *(Pause)*

Hear our gratitude as we sing aloud with radiance over the grain, the wine, and the oil; over the young of the flock and the herd; over the goodness of God, as we pray our thanksgivings, especially for Michael, our presiding bishop; Larry, our bishop; Lowell, our interim supply priest; and Chris, our Candidate for Holy Orders. In the diocesan cycle of prayer for St. John's, Harrison; St. Mark's, Hope; and those who work with people living with AIDS. And we give thanks for all those in our parish family celebrating birthdays or anniversaries this week.

Turn our mourning into joy, comfort us and give us gladness for sorrow. We remember those who have died, especially John Drum and all those who have succumbed to the Corona virus.
(Pause)

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
People: whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Celebrant: Our Gracious God, as you guided the wise men by the leading of a star, so may you give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation as we come to know Christ, so that, with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may know what is the hope to which you have called us, what are the riches of your glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of your power for us who believe, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Leader and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Celebrant says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Holy Eucharist Rite II

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer B

*Organ music is played and the people may sit
as the Celebrant prepares the Table.*

*After the Table has been prepared, the People stand
and the Celebrant says:*

All things come of thee, O Lord
People: And of thine own have we given thee.

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always
and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father
Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to
be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the
Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of
the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be
delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive
power to become your children.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with
Angels and Archangels and with all the company
of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to
proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love
which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of
Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the

prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Theodore, the blessed Virgin

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Beloved Jesus,
I believe that you are present
in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you
in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood,
come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you.
Let me never be separated from you
in this life or in the life to come. Amen.**

Closing Prayer

Celebrant says

Let us pray

Celebrant and People (BCP 366)

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

May God enlighten the eyes of your heart that you may know the hope to which Christ has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us.

May Christ give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to share the divine life of the One who humbled himself to share our humanity

May the Holy Spirit who has chosen you to be adopted as God's children set your heart on the pilgrims' way and lead you in a straight path in which you shall not stumble.

And the blessing of our wonderful God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

Dismissal

The Celebrant says the words of dismissal

People respond: **Thanks be to God.**



Participants in the Service

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Celebrant</i> | The Reverend Lowell Grisham |
| <i>Organist</i> | Annette Zehring |
| <i>Cantor</i> | Annette Zehring |
| <i>Acolyte</i> | Josh Goodrich |
| <i>Readers</i> | Bill Myers, Lana McDonald |