

The Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist Rite II – 10:00 a.m.

December 6, 2020



Saint Theodore's Episcopal Church

Bella Vista, Arkansas

The Right Reverend Larry R. Benfield,

Bishop of Arkansas

Saint Theodore's Episcopal Church

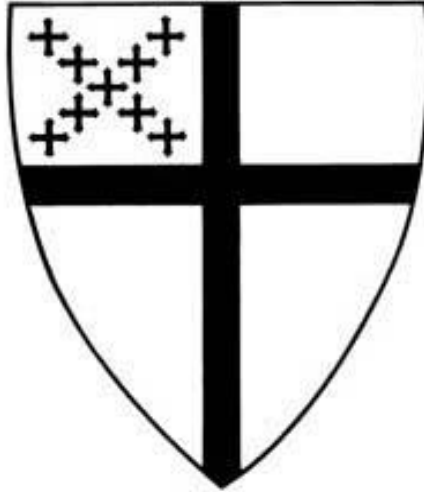
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2020 Vestry

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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

Organ Prelude *Creator of the stars of night - 9th c. plainsong* McCabe

Processional *O come, O come, Emmanuel* Hymnal 56
Raquel King, soprano

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Celebrant Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

People **Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.**

Celebrant Show the light of your countenance, and we shall
be saved .

People **O Lord God of hosts.**

Celebrant Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit.

People **Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.**

Celebrant Show us your mercy, O Lord.

People **And grant us your salvation.**

Celebrant Christ the Lord, Son of the living God, light from
light, leads us into the light and reveal his holiness.
With confidence let us make our prayer:

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Celebrant Light that never fades, dispel the mists about us.

People **Awaken our faith from sleep.**

Celebrant Guard us from all harm today.

People **May your glory fill us with joy.**

Celebrant Give us unfailing gentleness at all times,
People **toward everyone we meet.**

Celebrant Come to create a new earth for us,
People **where there will be justice and peace. Amen.**

The people standing, the celebrant says

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **His mercy endures for ever.**

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.*

Kyrie

Celebrant: Lord have mercy.

People: *Christ have mercy.*

Celebrant: Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant **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.**

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: Isaiah 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.

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Sung by the cantor

Antiphon You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people.

- 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.

Antiphon You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
You have forgiven the iniquity of your people.

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.

Antiphon You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
You have forgiven the iniquity of your people.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

But 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 people 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Organ interlude before the Gospel reading

The Holy Gospel (*Stand*) Mark 1:1-8

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ
according to Mark.

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

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 sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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:** Gracious God, through your messengers the prophets you have called your people to prepare the way of the Lord and to welcome the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God: Speak tenderly to your people that we may wait for and hasten the coming day, saying: Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*

Litanist: Indwelling God, you have baptized your Church with the Holy Spirit: Inspire us to lead lives of holiness and godliness as we prepare for the new heavens and a new earth, so that as Christ comes he finds us to be a people of peace and justice.

Mercy and truth have met together;

People: righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Litanist: Holy and Mighty One, open the ears and eyes of the leaders of all the nations that they may listen to what the Lord God is saying, for you are speaking peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

Mercy and truth have met together;

People: righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Litanist: Compassionate One, look upon the needs of all humanity: Feed your flock like a shepherd; gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom, gently leading the mother sheep, that all may know the comfort of your strength. Mercy and truth have met together;

People: righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Litanist: Ever-present God, lift up your voice with power to herald good tidings to the people of this community to cast out all fear as we listen for the happy cry of your coming salvation. Mercy and truth have met together;

People: righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Litanist: Glorious One, come with might in your divine recompense to reveal your glory to all who look to you in hope, as we pray especially for Don, Rose, Amanda, Ben, Becky, Karen Kay, Mary, Valerie, Mary, the Rector Search Committee and all those who have contracted Covid-19 and all who care for them. *(Pause)*

Accept our glad tidings for those who offer you their gracious thanksgivings, especially for Larry, our bishop; Lowell, our interim supply priest; and Chris, our Candidate for Holy Orders. In the diocesan cycle of prayer for St. Peter's, Conway; and the diocesan office and staff. And we give thanks for all those in our parish family celebrating birthdays or anniversaries this week.

Bring into your everlasting reign those who have died, especially all those who have succumbed to the Corona virus.

(Pause)

Mercy and truth have met together;

People: righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Celebrant: Look upon your creation and comfort your people, O Holy One: Let every valley be lifted up and every mountain and hill be made low; let the uneven ground become level and the rough places a plain, that all people may see the revelation of the glory of God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, 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

Communion Anthem *This is the truth* Vaughn Williams
Raquel King, soprano

*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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us
from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him
of everlasting life; that when he shall come again
in power and great triumph to judge the world,
we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold
his appearing.

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 people stand or kneel as able.

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 Mary, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

**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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread, and says

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Communion is received by the Celebrant

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

Comfort, O comfort to you, God's people. In your wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, and in your desert, make straight a highway for our God.

Greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, for he is lifting every valley and removing every mountain, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

You are baptized with the Holy Spirit. Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have

kissed each other; truth springs from the earth and justice looks down from heaven. Lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, do not fear.

And the peace of our gentle God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and comfort you, now and for ever. Amen.

Dismissal

The Celebrant says the words of dismissal

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

Organ Postlude

O come

Held

Participants in the Service

- Celebrant* The Reverend Lowell Grisham
- Organist* Annette Zehring
- Soloist/Cantor* Raquel King
- Acolyte* Josh Goodrich
- Readers* Sue Williams, Nancy Nagle

