

The Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist Rite II – 10:00 a.m.

December 13, 2020



Saint Theodore's Episcopal Church

Bella Vista, Arkansas

The Right Reverend Larry R. Benfield,

Bishop of Arkansas

Saint Theodore's Episcopal Church

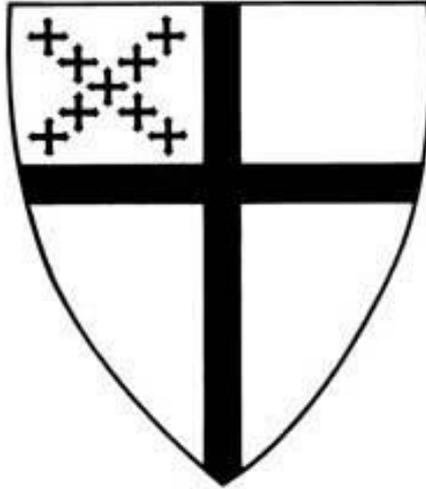
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2020 Vestry

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

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

Processional *Come to us now, Savior of the lost* Bach

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 **STIR UP YOUR POWER, O LORD**, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our LORD, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, 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 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and

wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126

Sung by the cantor

Antiphon Those who sowed with tears
 will reap with songs of joy.

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
 then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
 and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
 "The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, *
 and we are glad indeed.

- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their
sheaves.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Organ interlude before the Gospel reading

The Holy Gospel (*Stand*) John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to

testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah."

And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the prophet?"

He answered, "No."

Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord' ", as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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: *Holy God, you have spoken through your prophets and called us to make straight the way of the Lord: Visit us with your grace to cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations, as we pray: God has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.*

Litanist: O God of peace, you have called your people to rejoice always and to pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances: Sanctify your Church and her members that our spirit and soul and body may be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God has done great things for us,

People: and we are glad indeed.

Litanist: God of Righteousness and Mercy, you love justice and hate wrongdoing: Guide our leaders and all in authority, that they may bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, repair the ruined cities and cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

God has done great things for us,

People: and we are glad indeed.

Litanist: God of Compassion, look upon the needs of the world: Proclaim the year of your favor, and clothe your children with the garments of salvation and the robe of righteousness.

God has done great things for us,

People: and we are glad indeed.

Litanist: God of Grace, be among us in this community that we may be a people whom you have sanctified to testify to the light and to become oaks of righteousness.

God has done great things for us,

People: and we are glad indeed.

Litanist: Receive our prayers for those for whom we pray in intercession, especially Don, Rose, Julia, Amanda, Ben, Becky, Phyllis, Karen Kay, Valerie, Mary, Sue, Mary, the Rector Search Committee and all those who have contracted Covid-19 and all those who care for them. *(Pause)*

Hear our gratitude as we offer 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. Mark's, Crossett; St. Mary's, El Dorado; and retired bishop Herbert Donovan.

And we give thanks for all those in our parish family celebrating birthdays or anniversaries this week.

God has done great things for us,

People: and we are glad indeed.

Comfort all who mourn, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit, as we remember before you those who have died, especially all those who have succumbed to the Corona virus. *(Pause)*

Celebrant: Loving God, your Advent people look expectantly for the coming of Christ: As the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, nurture our prayers and the thoughts of our hearts, that we may receive with joy the goodness of your strength and live 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

*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 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;

**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

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances as you make straight the way of God in our day.

Hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil, that you may be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Do not quench the Spirit, but bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners.

And may the God of peace sanctify you entirely as the divine blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit fills you and empowers you, now and for ever. Amen.

Dismissal

The Celebrant says the words of dismissal

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

Organ Postlude

Nun komm

Vetter

Participants in the Service

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Reverend Lowell Grisham
<i>Organist</i>	Annette Zehring
<i>Cantor</i>	Lana McDonald
<i>Acolyte</i>	Wayne Whitney
<i>Readers</i>	Anne Streeter, Diane Landmesser

