

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

December 20, 2020



Saint Theodore's Episcopal Church

Bella Vista, Arkansas

The Right Reverend Larry R. Benfield,

Bishop of Arkansas

Saint Theodore's Episcopal Church

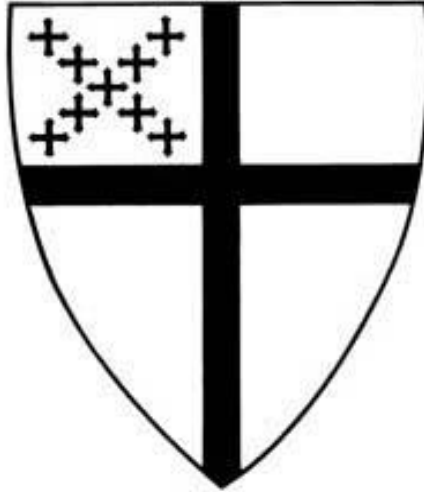
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2020 Vestry

Sharon Moravits, Sr. Warden

Al Addington & Colleen Whitney, Co-Jr. Wardens

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Jerry Schaefer • Bill Schernikau • Carolan Weaver

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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 **PURIFY OUR CONSCIENCE, ALMIGHTY GOD**, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of 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: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Sung by cantors

Antiphon

Mercy and truth shall go before Thy face, O LORD.

- 1 I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever:
with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness
to all generations.
- 2 For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever:
thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the
very heavens.
- 3 I have made a covenant with my chosen,
I have sworn unto David my servant,
- 4 Thy seed will I establish for ever
and build up thy throne to all generations.

- 19 Then thou spakest in vision to thy holy one, and saidist,
I have laid help upon one that is mighty;
I have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- 20 I have found David my servant;
with my holy oil have I anointed him:
- 21 With whom my hand shall be established:
mine arm also shall strengthen him.
- 22 The enemy shall not exact upon him;
nor the son of wickedness afflict him.
- 23 And I will beat down his foes before his face,
and plague them that hate him.
- 24 But my faithfulness and my mercy shall be with him:
and in my name shall his horn be exalted.
- 25 I will set his hand also in the sea,
and his right hand in the rivers.
- 26 He shall cry unto me, Thou art my father,
my God, and the rock of my salvation.

Antiphon

I will make him my Firstborn:
higher than the kings of the earth.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the

eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15 – The Song of Mary

Sung by cantors

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy spirit:

As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

The Holy Gospel (*Stand*) Luke 1:26-38

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

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon (*Sit*)

Chris Schaefer

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:** Extend your greeting to your favored ones, O God, and let your Holy Spirit overshadow us, that we may proclaim your love to our generation, as we await the coming of Christ, saying: Let your faithfulness and love be with us; for your love is established for ever.*

Litanist: Gracious and Loving God, build your Church into a house that shall be made sure forever before you, that we, like Mary, may respond in faithfulness and be bearers of the Christ Child unto all the world.

Let your faithfulness and love be with us;

People: for your love is established for ever.

Litanist: Eternal and Infinite One, raise up just leaders, and guide the nations of the world, that all people may live in their own place, and not be disturbed; and that evildoers shall afflict them no more.

Let your faithfulness and love be with us;

People: for your love is established for ever.

Litanist: Compassionate One, let the prophetic writings be made known to all the nations to bring release and comfort to all who are oppressed, to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things.

Let your faithfulness and love be with us;

People: for your love is established for ever.

Litanist: Loving God, empower your Holy Spirit to come upon this community that we may be the servants of the Lord and live graciously according to your word.

Let your faithfulness and love be with us;

People: for your love is established for ever.

Litanist: Gracious One, visit all for whom we pray with your mysterious love, and honor the intercessions of your people as we pray for 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 who care for them. (*Pause*)

Hear our glad tidings as we offer you our praise and thanksgiving, 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. James', Eureka Springs; Grace Church, Siloam Springs; and St. Thomas', Springdale. And we give thanks for all those in our parish family celebrating birthdays or anniversaries this week.

Raise up into your glorious eternal presence those who have died, especially all those who have succumbed to the Corona virus. (*Pause*)

Let your faithfulness and love be with us;
People: for your love is established for ever.

Celebrant: Holy One, let your Word of perfect love cast out all fear, for the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages is now disclosed; guide us that we may joyfully bring about the obedience of faith to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever. 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."

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

May our gracious God purify your conscience that
you may be a mansion prepared for the coming of
Christ.

May your soul magnify the Lord and your spirit
rejoice in Christ our Savior.

May you be filled with the Holy Spirit as we await the fulfillment of what has been spoken.

And the blessing of the Mighty One, 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.**

Organ Postlude *Arise, God's kingdom* J.C. Bach

Participants in the Service

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Reverend Lowell Grisham
<i>Preacher</i>	Chris Schaefer
<i>Organist</i>	Annette Zehring
<i>Cantors</i>	Marc & Charista Paine Lana McDonald & Annette Zehring
<i>Acolyte</i>	Josh Goodrich
<i>Readers</i>	Bill Myers, Josh Goodrich

