

# Christmas Eve

Holy Eucharist Rite II ~ 4:00 p.m.

December 24, 2020



Saint Theodore's Episcopal Church

Bella Vista, Arkansas

The Right Reverend Larry R. Benfield,

Bishop of Arkansas

# Saint Theodore's Episcopal Church

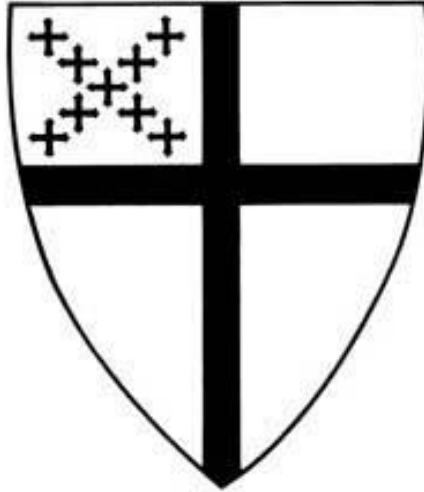
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## 2020 Vestry

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

**Prelude**                      *Once in royal David's city*                      Hymn 102  
   *Good Christian friends, rejoice*                      Hymn 107  
   *Greensleeves*    Healey, arr.  
   Kim Oehlert, viola

## 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 reveals 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*

*People* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
**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.*

## **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**, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **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 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 96

*Sung by cantor*

*Antiphon*

Sing to the LORD and bless his Name.

- 1     Sing to the LORD a new song; \*  
       sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2     Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \*  
       proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to  
       day.
- 3     Declare his glory among the nations \*  
       and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4     For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \*  
       he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5     As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
       but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6     Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
       Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7     Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \*  
       ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8     Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \*  
       bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9     Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \*  
       let the whole earth tremble before him.

- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! \*  
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the LORD when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.

## **Second Reading:** Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual Hymn** *O come, all ye faithful* **Hymn 83 (1 verse)**

## **The Holy Gospel** (*Stand*) Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)

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

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



And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.  
And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.  
And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

*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 and Loving God, in Jesus you have filled all humanity with your divine life: Hear our prayers of joy and thanksgiving as we offer our supplications to you, saying: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to God's people on earth.*

**Litanist:** You have entrusted the Church with good news of great joy for all people: Inspire our witness that we may spread the light of Jesus' love to all humanity.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

**People: and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Litanist:** Let your power and compassion guide those who exercise authority on earth, that they may be servants of peace, bringing comfort and security to all who are vulnerable.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

**People: and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Litanist:** Embrace with your eternal protection all who are poor: refugees and the displaced, those threatened by violence or illness, and families with no place to call their home.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

**People: and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Litanist:** Fill this community with hospitality and generosity, that we may care for one another and celebrate the joy of your presence in our humanity.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

**People: and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Litanist:** We entrust to your divine grace all for whom we pray, especially Don, Rose, Julia, Mike, 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)*

We give thanks for shepherds and all the vigilant who work while others sleep. Hear our grateful thanksgiving for all the gifts and blessings in our lives, 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. Paul's, Fayetteville; and St. Martin's University Center, Fayetteville. And we give thanks for all those in our parish family celebrating birthdays or anniversaries this week.

We entrust into your eternal arms those who have died, especially all those who have succumbed to the Corona virus.

*(Pause)*

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

**People: and peace to God's people on earth.**

*Celebrant: Loving God, the joyful message of the angels fills us with gladness as we celebrate the coming of the Christ child to live among us in vulnerable humility: Let your divine light so dwell within us, that we may treasure your words, ponder them in our hearts, and continue the work of Christ's incarnation in our day, through Jesus our Savior, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. 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**

*Christmas hymns are played and the people may sit as the Celebrant prepares the Table.*

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming* Hymn 81

*Silent Night* Hymn 111

*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 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.





*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 you rejoice and be glad for the goodness and love of our God.

May you welcome the good news of great joy for all people, the news of the Savior who is Messiah, the Lord.

May you be filled with the Spirit and join the heavenly song, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace and goodwill toward all."

And the blessing of our wonderful God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and grow in you, now and 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>Organist</i>	Annette Zehring
<i>Cantor</i>	Annette Zehring
<i>Acolyte</i>	Josh Goodrich
<i>Readers</i>	Nancy Nagle, Anne Streeter

