

Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024



Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan
www.GoodSamaritanEpiscopal.church
The Holy Eucharist, Rite II
The Rev. Dr. Richard Effinger

Prelude

The Infant Jesus

F. L. Marriott

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn 65

Prepare the way, O Zion

The Word of God

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant and People:

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.

S102 Trisagion

Holy God, Holy and Mighty. Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty. Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty. Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

The Collect

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.**

Hebrew Scripture

Baruch 5:1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word

of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

The Song of Zachariah

Luke 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, * from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *

holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation *

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The Epistle

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn 75 (vv. 1-2) There's a voice in the wilderness crying

The Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

Hymn 75 (vs. 3) There's a voice in the wilderness crying

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Rick Effinger

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 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 worshipped 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.

The Prayers of the People (Form IV)

BCP p. 392

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Collect

Confession

BCP p. 360

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.*

Absolution

The Peace

BCP p. 360

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

(Share a greeting, a wave, a nod with your fellow parishioners.)

Announcements and Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Offertory Anthem

Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People

Johannes Oleareus

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise him all creatures here below.

Praise him above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

BCP p. 369

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.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus S124

**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.

(Stand or kneel as you are able)

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah and Hagar, Rebecca, Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength;

for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name. *Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.*

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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

Celebrant and People:

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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

S152 Alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia.

Hymn 321

My God, thy table now is spread

Post Communion Prayer

BCP p. 366

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

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 Advent Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with each of you this day and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Hymn 76 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Puer Nobis

Edward G. Mead

Thank you for worshiping with us today

ANNOUNCEMENTS **(Read more in the eNews)**

Fellowship

Please join us for fellowship after the service. It's a wonderful time to enjoy each other's company and have something light to eat.

Healing Eucharist in the Chapel - Wednesdays at 12:05 pm

Advent Book Study – Tuesday, December 10th, 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall

Join us for our continued discussion of *The First Christmas* by Crossan and Borg. We'll share a meal together and explore chapters 4 and 5. Looking forward to a meaningful conversation!

The Compassionate Friends: Worldwide Candle Lighting - Sunday, December 8th, 6:30 p.m.

This annual event is held on the second Sunday of December to honor the memories of children who have passed away. At 7:00 p.m. local time, families and friends worldwide light candles for one hour, creating a 24-hour wave of light as it moves through each time zone.

Christmas Flower Offering

Help make our worship space beautiful this Christmas! Flower envelopes are in the Narthex. Write the name(s) and choose: "To the Glory of God," "In Memory of," or "In Thanksgiving." To help cover poinsettia costs, include a donation. Checks can be made out to Good Samaritan Episcopal Church with "Altar Flowers" in the memo. Please return envelopes by Friday, December 20. Thank you for sharing in this lovely tradition!

Holy Cow Parish Survey

Holy Cow is open for your feedback! We'd love to hear your thoughts—please take a few minutes to complete the survey over the next couple of weeks. Your input makes a difference, and we're grateful for your participation!

December Outreach Collections



Let's extend our generosity further by donating socks and non-perishable food items for Christmas. Together, we can share our abundance and blessings, making the holidays brighter for those in need.



Thank you for your kindness and support!

Stewardship

Pledge cards for next year are now available in the Narthex and on our website. We kindly ask that you take a moment to prayerfully reflect on your pledge for the coming year. Please return your card by December 15. Thank you for being a part of our community and supporting our mission!

MISSION

As Good Samaritans, we share God's love by welcoming and respecting all people and by nurturing individuals and the community through worship, outreach, and prayer.