



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 20 December 2020

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Gathering Music (*The gathering music at 9:30 a.m. will be sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen*)

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

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

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Today we light the first, second, third, and fourth candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is **Hope**, the second candle is **Peace**, the third candle is **Joy**, and the fourth candle is **Love**. Let us pray: Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. **Amen.**

Song of Praise (*9:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen*)

The Collect of the Day

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.**

The Lessons

A reading from 2 Samuel (7:1–11, 16)

Commentary:

For ancient Israel, the heart of worship was the Ark of the Covenant, where God symbolically dwelt with His people. After King David was settled in his Jerusalem palace, he brought the Ark to the city, planning to build a magnificent temple to house the Ark and to honor the Lord. However, David was not the man God had chosen to build the temple, that responsibility would fall to Solomon. God made a covenant with David, promising him four things: a great name, a homeland for Israel, undisturbed rest from Israel's enemies, and an everlasting royal dynasty and kingdom. This Davidic Covenant was to become the basis of Israel's messianic hope.

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 dis-

(continued overleaf)

turbed 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 forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15 (9:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen) chant: John Sullivan

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.

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

ANTIPHON

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.

ANTIPHON

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.

ANTIPHON

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.

ANTIPHON

A reading from Romans (16:25–27)

Commentary:

In a concluding doxology, Paul brought together words and ideas he expounded throughout this epistle. Paul was confident that God could and would do for the Romans what they needed. The mystery of the gospel was hidden until God revealed it, partially in the Old Testament and fully in the New. As the only God, He is God of all people; as the wise God, He is Author of the plan of salvation. God is worthy of all glory, because of who He is and all that He has done. We have access to Him through His Son, Jesus Christ.

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 forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (1:26–38)

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord 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 forever, 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.

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

The Homily

The Reverend Cheryl Brainard

The Nicene Creed

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

The response to each petition:

Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Officiant 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 Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Solo: *(9:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen)*

Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Sanctus *(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 Celebrant says in the midst of the prayer

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 Lord's Prayer

The Fraction

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Communion of the People.

Communion Music *(9:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen)*

Post-Communion Prayer *(Celebrant and People)*

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Celebrant: The Reverend Pierce Klemmt

*The flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Richard Henry Youngblood and Christine Ramsaur Youngblood and Raiford Graham Trask,
Mable Dunn Hall Trask, Charles Ramsaur Youngblood.*

Mt. Lebanon Chapel

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