

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Morning Prayer Rite II

Sunday, December 20, 2020



E. Flake

Welcome & Announcements

Prepare Ye the Way

Sung by the Holy Apostles Choir

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile
Here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Wisdom from on high
Who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nation
Bind in one the hearts of humankind
Bid thou our sad divisions cease,
And be thyself our King of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Opening Sentence

Presider Watch, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning, lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

All **Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift:
You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us.
We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family. We have desired to live in freedom,
while building walls between ourselves and others.
We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are,
while making judgements of others based on the color of skin, or the shape of features, or the varieties of human experience.
We have tried to love our neighbors individually
while yet benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression.
Forgive us, Holy God.**

**Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people.
Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love.
Restore us in your image, to be beloved community,
united in our diversity,
even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit,
Holy and undivided Trinity, now and for ever.
Amen**

Presider 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.

The Invitatory & Psalter

Presider Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

All **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. Alleluia!**

Presider Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your Light Shines Within Us

Sung by all

**Lord Jesus Christ, your Light shines within us.
Let not my doubts nor my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ, your Light shines within us.
Let my heart always welcome your love. (sung 3x)**

The Magnificat

Led by Erin McNaughton

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.

All **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.**

The Lessons

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

Read by Janet Kaplan

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 forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn

The Angel Gabriel

Sung by Hirona Amamiya

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Read by Deacon John Musco

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.
The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Canon Sandye Wilson

The Apostles Creed

Said in unison

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Offertory

We give thanks to God for all we have and all we are. You can give securely online here:

<https://onrealm.org/holyapostles/give/website>

Doxology

Sung by all

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below,
Praise him above ye heav’nly hosts,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Prayers

Led by Colleen Lang

Intercessor As we wait with pregnant expectation for the coming of Jesus, let us offer prayers to God who sends his Son in the womb of Mary.

Pause for a moment of silence

Intercessor God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed:

Come, O Lord: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ.

Intercessor Blessed are You who joins us together in the communion of Christ's Body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this parish and throughout the world, that we may be a resurrection people, manifesting Your steadfast love in our common life of praise and service.

Come, O Lord: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ.

Intercessor O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world. May we entrust all our labors to the work of Providence.

Come, O Lord: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ.

Intercessor O Deliverer, You unlock every door and make a way where there is no way. Set free all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or spirit. Resurrect their hope, grant them peace and refreshment, and restore their joy.

Come, O Lord: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ.

Intercessor O compassionate One, hold us in Your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the refugee, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle.

Come, O Lord: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ.

Intercessor O Morning Star, bright splendor of the light eternal, illumining all things with Your radiance: Come, enlighten all who sit in darkness, and those who dwell in the shadow of violence and death. Grant us Your peace, and teach us to live in the dawn of Your unfailing promise.

Come, O Lord: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ.

Intercessor O Lover of souls, when we wander far away, lead us back to You; when we refuse Your embrace, do not give up on us; when we forget You, do not forget us.

Come, O Lord: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ.

Intercessor O Desire of every heart, the answer to every longing: You are the strong force that draws us into the mystery of love divine. Forgive us those things which distract and delay us, and lead us ever deeper into the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Come, O Lord: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ.

Intercessor God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us an Advent people, ready and alert to welcome and receive You in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare You room.

Come, O Lord: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ.

Dear people of God, what else, and who else, should we pray for?

*** Please give silence after each person speaks before you add your petition. If you do not have a petition or if there is too much background noise in your home, please mute yourself. You can also write your prayer in the chat.*

Presider And now as our Savior Jesus has taught us, we are bold to pray:

The Lord's Prayer LEVAS-264

Sung by all

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

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.*

Advent Prayer

From Henri Nouwen

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness,

send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

The Benediction

Presider 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 among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Soon and Very Soon

Sung by all

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're goin' to see the King

No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're goin' to see the King

No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're goin' to see the King

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're goin' to see the King
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

All **Thanks be to God!**

Christmas Sing-a-long

Passing of the Peace

Christmas at Holy Apostles

Christmas Eve Service is at 9pm.

Christmas Day is at 8am.

An email with links to both services will be sent this week.