

Sunday December 20th, 2020-Advent 4

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be His Kingdom, now and forever.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy Holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Decalogue

God spake these words and said:

I am the Lord thy God who brought Thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Honor thy father and thy mother.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt do no murder.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not steal.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not covet.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and write all these Thy laws in our hearts, we beseech Thee.***

Lord, Have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,
we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord;
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

The Lord be with you.
And with Thy spirit.
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 forever.
Amen.

The Lessons

A Reading from 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

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!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

1 Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

**2 For I am persuaded that your love is established forever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

**4 'I will establish your line for ever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"**

19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:
"I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

**20 I have found David my servant;
with my holy oil have I anointed him.**

21 My hand will hold him fast
and my arm will make him strong.

**22 No enemy shall deceive him,
nor any wicked man bring him down.**

23 I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.

**24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him,
and he shall be victorious through my Name.**

25 I shall make his dominion extend
from the Great Sea to the River.

**26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father,
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'**

A Reading from 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 forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

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 Gospel of the Lord!

Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

The Sermon

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.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and ever living God, who in Thy Holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto Thy divine Majesty, beseeching Thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess Thy Holy Name may agree in the truth of Thy Holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth Thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer Thy Holy Sacraments. And to all Thy people give Thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive Thy Holy Word, truly serving Thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech Thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold Thy gracious hand in all Thy works, that, rejoicing in Thy whole creation, they may honor Thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of Thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech Thee, of Thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless Thy Holy Name for all Thy servants departed this life in Thy faith and fear beseeching Thee to grant them continual growth in Thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all Thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of Thy heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

Amen.

Confession of Sin

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

***Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:***

***We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against Thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly Thy wrath and indignation against us.***

***We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is
intolerable.***

***Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please Thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of Thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1:15

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with thy spirit.

The Lord be with you

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because Thou didst send Thy 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, with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name; evermore praising Thee, and saying,

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of Thy Glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

All glory be to Thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that Thou, of Thy tender mercy, didst give Thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by His one oblation of Himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in His Holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that His precious death and sacrifice, until His coming again.

For in the night in which He was betrayed, He took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is My Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

Likewise, after supper, He took the cup; and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is My Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Wherefore, O Lord and Heavenly Father, according to the institution of Thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, Thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before Thy divine Majesty, with these Thy Holy gifts, which we now offer unto Thee, the memorial Thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance His blessed passion and precious death, His mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto Thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech Thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of Thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with Thy Word and Holy Spirit, these Thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to Thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of His death and passion, may be partakers of His most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire Thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching Thee to grant that, by the merits and death of Thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all Thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto Thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto Thee; humbly beseeching Thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of Thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with Thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with Him, that He may dwell in us, and we in Him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto Thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech Thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto Thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

Amen.

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

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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us Thy peace.

We do not presume to come to this Thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Thy Table. But Thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink His blood, that we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us. Amen.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living God, we most heartily thank Thee for that Thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of Thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of Thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of Thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of Thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech Thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with Thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as Thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.; and the blessing+ of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.

Amen.

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for our sal -
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in dread - ful
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his daz - zling
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on thine e -

va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 ma - jes - ty; those who set at nought and sold him,
 bo - dy bears, cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the power and glo - ry;

swell the tri - umph of his train: Al - le - lu - ia!
 pierced, and nailed him to the tree, deep - ly wail - ing,
 to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers; with what rap - ture,
 claim the king - dom for thine own: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *St. Thomas*, melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. att. Vincent Francis Novello (1781-1861)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

