



Church of the Advent

The Liturgy of the Word
Second Sunday After Christmas

January 3, 2021
10:00 am

PRELUDE - by Bradford Dale

OPENING SENTENCES

People Blessed be the one, holy, and living One.
You come to your people and set them free.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Celebrant and people

I Will Kindle My Fire

ADVENT CHOIR

*I will kindle my fire in the morn of the day,
in the presence of holy angels.
Without malice or jealousy, envy or fear,
without terror of anyone under the sun,
but the Holy Beloved to shield me.
O Holy one, kindle thou here in my heart,
a flame of pure love to my neighbor,
to my foe, to my friend, to my kindred all,
to the brave, to the knave, to the thrall.
O child of the loveliest Mary, from the lowliest thing,
to the Holy Name, the beloved of all.*

THE COLLECT

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT - Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the LORD.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People

Thanks be to God

PSALM 84:1-8

1 **H**ow dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *

they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

THE EPISTLE - Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People

Thanks be to God

MUSIC

My Soul is at Rest

ADVENT CHOIR

*My soul is at rest in God alone,
my salvation comes from God.*

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

THE SERMON - *The Rev. Jason Oden*

THE NICENE CREED *Celebrant and people*

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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,

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

The congregation is invited to stand

Officiant *Holy and Eternal One, gather your people from the farthest parts of the earth, and let your consolation pour forth, as we sing aloud with radiance over your goodness, saying: Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.*

Intercessor *Gracious God, you have blessed the Church with every spiritual blessing from the heavenly places and chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world: Lead us, your children, into holiness, according to the good pleasure of your will, and to the praise of your glorious grace freely bestowed upon us in the Beloved.*

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Intercessor *Redeem your children from the hands that are too strong for them and guide our earthly rulers to lead as benevolent shepherds, that we may be saved from the road of betrayal and violence, so that all life may be like a watered garden and none may ever languish again.*

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Intercessor *Guide all who seek wisdom from dreams and deep spiritual observation and lead those who search for truth and insight, that they may labor to bring forth new hope through a constant rebirth of wisdom and knowledge.*

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Intercessor *Protect all children and families and rescue them from violence, poverty, and oppression.*

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Intercessor Inspire our community to welcome refugees, immigrants, and strangers from foreign lands, that we may be a place of refuge for those in need and a people of hospitality for every culture.

People Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Intercessor Save your people and give ear to our prayer as we remember before you those for whom we are called to pray, especially _____. (*Congregation is welcome to add their own petitions.*)

Hear our gratitude as we sing aloud with radiance over the grain, the wine, and the oil; over the young of the flock and the herd; over the goodness of God, as we pray our thanksgivings, especially for _____. (*Congregation is welcome to add their own thanksgivings.*)

Turn our mourning into joy, comfort us and give us gladness for sorrow. We remember those who have died, especially _____. (*Congregation is welcome to add the names of those to remember.*)

People Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Officiant Our Gracious God, as you guided the Holy Family by dreams and intuition, so may you give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation as we come to know Christ, so that, with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may know what is the hope to which you have called us, what are the riches of your glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of your power for us who believe, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSON OF SINS

Let us confess our sins to God.

Celebrant and people

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Birthdays and Anniversaries of Weddings and Unions*

MUSIC

The Sleep of the Infant Jesus

ADVENT CHOIR

'Twixt ox and ass, Thy guardians mild,
Sleep, sleep, Thou Little Child,
Angels tall and white, Seraphs pure and bright,
Watching all above the mighty Lord of Love.

'Twixt rose and lily, undefil'd,
Sleep, sleep, Thou Little Child,
Angels tall and white, Seraphs pure and bright,
Watching all above the mighty Lord of Love.

'Twixt shepherd youths all unbeguile,
Sleep, sleep, Thou Little Child,
Angels tall and white, Seraphs pure and bright,
Watching all above the mighty Lord of Love.
King of Angels, sleep!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and people

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his Lutheran counterpart Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton welcome congregations and individuals to regularly pray "A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God." This prayer is meant to unite us in common prayer and revive us for common mission, wherever and however we may be gathered.

A PRAYER FOR THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GOD
Celebrant and people

**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 BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May God enlighten the eyes of your heart that you may know the hope to which Christ has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us.

May Christ give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to share the divine life of the One who humbled himself to share our humanity

May the Holy Spirit who has chosen you to be adopted as God's children set your heart on the pilgrims' way and lead you in a straight path in which you shall not stumble.

And the blessing of our wonderful God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

People

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

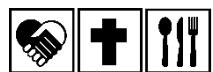
POSTLUDE - by *Bradford Dale*



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