

Church of the Advent

The Liturgy of the Word
Third Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020
10:00 am

PRELUDE - *by Bradford Dale*

OPENING SENTENCES

Blessed be the one, holy, and living One.
People **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.

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.**

OLD TESTAMENT - 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.

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

People

Thanks be to God

PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26

- 1 **Y**our love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; *
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
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.'

THE EPISTLE - 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.

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

MUSIC

Wait for the Lord

ADVENT CHOIR

*Wait for the Lord, his day is near;
Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart.*

THE GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

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

People The Gospel of the Lord
 Praise to you, Lord Christ

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 Extend your greeting to your favored ones, O God, and let your Holy Spirit overshadow us, that we may proclaim your love to our generation, as we await the coming of Christ, saying: Let your faithfulness and love be with us; for your love is established for ever.

Intercessor Gracious and Loving God, build your Church into a house that shall be made sure forever before you, that we, like Mary, may respond in faithfulness and be bearers of the Christ Child unto all the world.

Let your faithfulness and love be with us;
People **for your love is established for ever.**

Intercessor Eternal and Infinite One, raise up just leaders, and guide the nations of the world, that all people may live in their own place, and not be disturbed; and that evildoers shall afflict them no more.

Let your faithfulness and love be with us;
People **for your love is established for ever.**

Intercessor Compassionate One, let the prophetic writings be made known to all the nations to bring release and comfort to all who are oppressed, to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things.

Let your faithfulness and love be with us;
People **for your love is established for ever.**

Intercessor Loving God, empower your Holy Spirit to come upon this community that we may be the servants of the Lord and live graciously according to your word.

Let your faithfulness and love be with us;
People **for your love is established for ever.**

Intercessor Gracious One, visit all for whom we pray with your mysterious love, and honor the intercessions of your people as we pray for _____. (*Congregation is welcome to add their own petitions.*)

Hear our glad tidings as we offer you our praise and thanksgiving, especially for _____. (*Congregation is welcome to add their own thanksgivings.*)

Raise up into your glorious eternal presence those who have died, especially _____. (*Congregation is welcome to add those names to remember.*)

People Let your faithfulness and love be with us;
for your love is established for ever.

Officiant Holy One, let your Word of perfect love cast out all fear, for the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages is now disclosed; guide us that we may joyfully bring about the obedience of faith to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION 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

Behold Your God

ADVENT CHOIR

*Oh thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
Oh thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem:
Lift up your voice with strength,
Lift it up don't be afraid.
Behold your God!
Arise, and shine, for the light of the world is come.
Behold your God!*

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

Greetings, favored ones! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God.

In your lives you are the bearers of Jesus the Son of God, for the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages is now made known to all, and nothing will be impossible with God.

May the Holy Spirit come upon you and the power of the Most High overshadow you, to lead you in lives of holiness and joy.

And the blessing of our glorious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and dwell within you, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

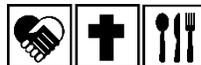
POSTLUDE - *by Bradford Dale*



Church of the Advent

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