



# **Church of the Advent**

The Liturgy of the Word  
First Sunday After Epiphany

January 10, 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

**A**lmighty 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 OF THE DAY

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

**F**ather in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT - Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

## PSALM 29

1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, \*  
    ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; \*  
    worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; \*  
    the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; \*  
    the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; \*  
    the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
    and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;  
    the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; \*  
    the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe \*  
    and strips the forests bare.

9 And in the temple of the LORD \*  
    all are crying, "Glory!"

10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
    the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.

11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; \*  
    the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

## THE EPISTLE - Acts 19:1-7

**W**hile Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

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

## MUSIC.

## I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light

ADVENT CHOIR

*I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.  
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

## THE GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ**

**J**ohn the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;

I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

*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* Let us pray to our God whose Spirit breathes life into being, that through baptism we may be empowered as God's beloved children to share in the healing and reconciling work of Christ, saying: God shall give strength to the people; God shall give us the blessing of peace.

*Intercessor* Fill your Church with the power of your Holy Spirit, O Gracious One, that we may bring the light of your blessing to the whole world.  
God shall give strength to the people;  
**God shall give us the blessing of peace.**

*Intercessor* Let your gentle spirit be upon this nation and upon all in authority, that we may share in your work to bring forth justice upon the earth.  
God shall give strength to the people;  
**God shall give us the blessing of peace.**

*Intercessor* Let your prophets to speak powerful words of repentance and transformation to the ends of the earth, that the breath of your creative love and the sound of your blessing may go forth throughout the world.  
God shall give strength to the people;  
**God shall give us the blessing of peace.**

*Intercessor* Let your grace descend and dwell among the people of this community, that we may be united in love, abounding in compassion, and proactive in peace.  
God shall give strength to the people;  
**God shall give us the blessing of peace.**

*Intercessor* Let the heavens open and your Spirit descend upon us, bringing your comfort and healing to all for whom we pray, especially \_\_\_\_\_. (*Congregation is welcome to add their own petitions.*)  
Hear our grateful thanks and praise for your manifestation of presence and grace in our lives and in the lives of others, giving thanks especially for \_\_\_\_\_. (*Congregation is welcome to add their own thanksgivings.*)

Welcome with your divine pleasure all who have died, especially \_\_\_, that they may have a place in your eternal domains. (*Congregation is welcome to add those name to be remembered,*)

*People* God shall give strength to the people;  
**God shall give us the blessing of peace.**

*Officiant* Gracious and loving God, you have anointed your people with the waters of Baptism, and you have made us your beloved children: Let your Spirit spread mightily among us, that we may share in the work of your Son, bringing blessing and light to all the world in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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

**A**lmighty 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

Morning Has Broken

ADVENT CHOIR

*Morning has broken like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!*

*Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.*

*Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,  
Born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's re-creation of the new day!*

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

**A**scribe to God glory and strength and worship God in the beauty of holiness.

The same God who proclaimed Jesus as the beloved has also made you God's beloved child; you are part of the goodness of God's wonderful creation.

You have received the Holy Spirit; keep the covenant you have made and boldly live in the light of that Spirit.

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

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE - by *Bradford Dale*



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