



Sunday, December 8, 2024- Second Sunday in Advent

Processional Hymn Prepare the way, O Zion (H 65)

1. Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

2. He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace. His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him. Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle- Peace

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.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us Pray

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Prophet Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi

and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord. People **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 1: 68-79

Canticle 16 Page 92, BCP

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

Comfort, comfort ye my people

(H 67 v1)

1 Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God; comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrows' load. Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 3:1-6

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon The Rev. Susan Plucker

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.

Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who need healing and comfort. And all who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

We commend to your mercy all who have died. Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you. **People: And also with you.**

Celebrations of Life – Welcome visitors – Blessings, Birthdays, and Anniversaries For a Birthday

Watch over your child, O Lord, as his days increase; bless and guide him wherever he may be. Strengthen him when he stands; comfort him when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him up if he falls; and in his heart may your peace which passes understand abide all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For an Anniversary

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The Holy Communion

Gluten free communion is available.

Presentation of the Elements

Offertory Anthem

Light a Candle

Andy Beck

Presentation of Offering Doxology

O friends, in gladness let us sing, supernal anthems echoing, Alleluia, alleluia! To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! alleluia!

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them to the Lord

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People: By your will they were created and have their being.

Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People: By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora! Mi corazon te sabe decir: santo eres Señor. Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you! My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, Lord. Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora! Mi corazon te sabe decir: santo eres Señor. (WLP 785)

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (S-155)

Celebrant: 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.

Communion Hymn There's a voice in the wilderness crying (H 75)

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod: Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God! The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low; make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!

2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up to the heights and sing! Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King. Like the flowers of the field they perish, like grass our works decay, the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away;

3 but the word of our God endureth, the arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst of nations, and he will right the wrong. He shall feed His flock like a shepherd, the lambs he'll gently hold; to pastures of peace he'll lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry (H 76)

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come.

3 For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward; without thy grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.

4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the fallen sinner stand; shine forth, and let thy light restore earth's own true loveliness once more.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent doth thy people free; whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

Dismissal:

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

2024 Vestry

Sr. Warden: Mary Ellen Howey

Jr. Warden: Mannie Makhathini

Clerk: Heather Bowman

Treasurer: Ed McGarry

David Graf

Kristen Lavachek

David Lynch

Deborah Sullivan

Announcements

Gingerbread House Decorating Today! We will meet in the Parish Hall after the 10am service today, Sunday Dec 8th, to decorate a gingerbread house of your own. Even if you have not signed up, please come over and join us for donuts, coffee and hot chocolate. We might have a few extra houses if you care to join in!

Advent Study: Please join us for the advent study: "People, Look East: Welcoming Christmas". This will be Sundays at 9 am in the Parish Hall on December 1, 8, 15, 22.

Lessons & Carols: Come and celebrate the joyous season of waiting and the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, with an inspiring evening of the spoken word, song, and dance. Together, we will reflect on the hope, peace, joy, and love that this season brings.

Date & Time: December 15, 2024 at 4:00 pm

Winter Wonderland: If you wish to donate towards the Outreach project for Church School gift cards please do so TODAY! . If you are interested in attending please pick up the 1/2 sheet and sign up on the clipboard. Please see Betty-Jeanne if you have any questions.

Epicenter Food Drive: This Christmas season we at Epiphany are thankful for the many people who donate so generously to our food pantry. Sadly, we have an uptick in clients who have no means of cooking their own food. Therefore, we ask for all kinds of non-perishable food that does not require cooking. Cans with pull-tops are especially appreciated. Let's make this a merry Christmas for all God's children!

Family Promise: Please consider donating (new) toys, warm clothes or gift cards for the children and teens served by Family Promise. We love to see children smile! We are also accepting wrapping paper, gift bags and wrapping supplies so parents can wrap their children's gifts. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts, in advance, for your generosity and support. Please drop off in the Narthex in the Christmas Box due on or before Sunday December 8th.

Christmas Poinsettia: Please fill out PINK flower slip for Poinsettia (\$30) and attach check or cash and give to Betty-Jeanne or put in the offering plate.

***Please send any announcements for the bulletin and newsletter at
admin@nvepiphany.org***

Our mission is to create and nurture disciples to share our journey to know and to love Jesus Christ

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