



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
 December 20, 2020
Holy Eucharist, Rite II – 10:00 a.m.



Confirmation

BCP

GREETING

The Rev. M. Alton Plummer

PRELUDE *A time of meditative prayer*

Lo, a Rose (Rosa Mystica) - W. Held

355 OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

The people standing, the Bishop says

Blessed by God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed by his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

356 THE GLORIA *(In Unison)*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

212 THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord 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.**

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: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26 (*responsively by whole verse*)

¹ Your 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.'**

**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 TIME OF SILENCE / A TIME FOR LISTENING *A bell bowl signals the beginning and end*

THE SECOND LESSON

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.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came - D. Cherwein

THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

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

People **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.

-- The Gospel of the Lord **People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Right Reverend Samuel Rodman, Diocesan Bishop

303 PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The Bishop says

The Candidates will now be presented.

Presenter We present *Wes Allred, Laurie and Dan Briggs* for Confirmation,
And *Mary-Ruth and Henry Duquette* to be received into this Communion.
(*presented by Tommy Black, Senior Warden*)

The Bishop asks the candidates

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate I do.

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

The Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Bishop then says these or similar words

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

304 THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

305 PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

The Bishop then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

A period of silence follows.

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love other in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

FOR CONFIRMATION

Strengthen, O Lord, your servants *Wes, Laurie and Dan* with your Holy Spirit; empower *them* for your service, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until *they* come to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

FOR RECEPTION

Mary-Ruth and Henry, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of the Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

FOR REAFFIRMATION

N, May the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in service of Christ and his Kingdom. Amen.

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DIOCESAN PRAYER FOR MISSION *(in unison)*

**Most gracious and loving God:
Strengthen the hearts of your people in this diocese
That loving you with our whole heart,
And loving our neighbors as ourselves,
We might, in the power of the Spirit,
Obey the call of Jesus,
To go into our world as disciples
Making disciples,
And making a difference
Through your saving love. Amen**

332 THE PEACE

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

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* - based on 15th cent. French processional

367 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer B)

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and says

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your 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 we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

364 **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.**

364 **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY *Of the Father's Love Begotten - adap. Piae Cantiones, 1582*

365 **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Celebrant and People

**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 *(from The Book of Occasional Services 2018)*

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility,
sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **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. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with
unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain
with you for ever. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE *Blest Be the King Whose Coming - melody by Melchior Techner*