

Grace Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

10:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

PRELUDE

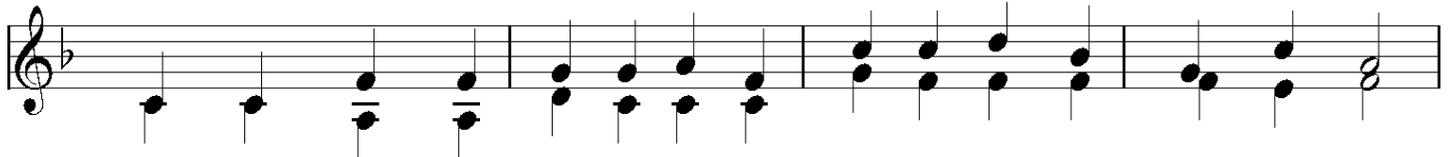
He Shall Feed His Flock (from "Messiah") - G. F. Handel

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

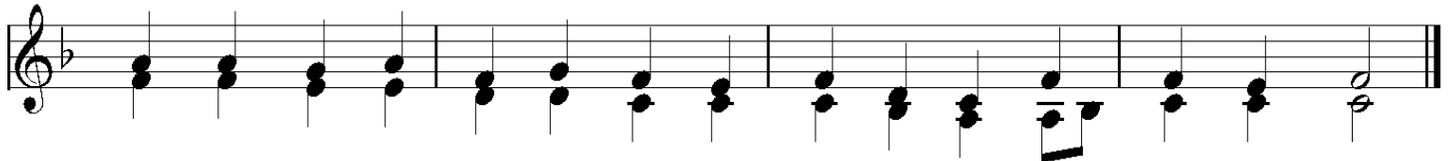
CHORAL INTROIT (vv. 7-8)

*(Choir only)**O come, O come, Emmanuel*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #66

*(Blue Hymnal)**Come, thou long expected Jesus*

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

413 OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

Bishop Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***Bishop* There is one Body and one Spirit;*People* **There is one hope in God's call to us;***Bishop* One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;*People* **One God and Father of all.**

212 THE COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Bishop The Lord be with you.*People* **And also with you.***Bishop* 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.**

Please be seated

Lector A Reading from the Prophet Micah:

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.
 Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;
 then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.
 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
 And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;
 and he shall be the one of peace.

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

702 **PSALM 80:1-7** (*Responsively by whole verse*)

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
 shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**² In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
 stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³ Restore us, O God of hosts;
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**⁴ O LORD God of hosts,
 how long will you be angered
 despite the prayers of your people?**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**⁶ You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

**⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Lector A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

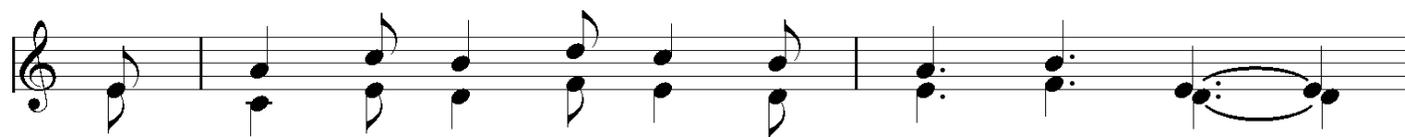
Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN #265

(Blue Hymnal)

The angel Gabriel

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
 Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name.
 His mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
 He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
 and lifted up the lowly;
 he has filled the hungry with good things,
 and sent the rich away empty.
 He has helped his servant Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,
 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

THE SERMON

The Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple

415 PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The Bishop says

The Candidates will now be presented.

Presenter We present *Timothy White* for Confirmation, and *Beth Burke, Renee Ewbank, Pam Harvey, David Jones, Marlene Jones, Robert Mack, Lynn Mack, Judie Reed, Robin Sink, John Taylor, and Penny Taylor* who desire to reaffirm their baptismal vows.

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.

416 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.**

418 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. The Archdeacon then leads the prayers.

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

Defend, O Lord, your servant *Tim* with your heavenly grace, that he may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until he comes to your everlasting kingdom. **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.**

419 THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIOCESAN MISSION PRAYER (*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

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Carol of Prophecy "*Exultate, Jubilate, Jubilate Deo*"

All undesignated gifts today will go to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund to be used in circumstances of special need.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

The offering is brought forward as the hymn is sung.

PRESENTATION HYMN #112 (v. 4)

What can I give him

4 What___ can I give him, poor___ as I am?
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise_ man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him- give my heart.

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 unto our Lord God.

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

Celebrant

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 in Jesus Christ our Lord you have received us as your sons and daughters, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth.

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:

SANCTUS
#S124

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

The people may stand or kneel

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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."

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 hath 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.**

364 **INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION**

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.

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 ADVENT BLESSING

Celebrant May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you in holy light as you remain steadfast in faith, filled with joy, encouraged in hope, and constant in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION HYMN #438 *(Blue Hymnal)*

Tell out, my soul



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!
3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.



ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord



in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.
his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.
the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

366 THE DISMISSAL

Archdeacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

People. Look East - K. Langlois

*The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God
by Jön-Eric Thomas
in loving memory of my parents Richard and Elrene Thomas,
and grandparents J. Oscar and Margaret Thomas & Algot and Esther Osterman.*

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector: Kathy Young	Acolyte: Erik Petruzzi
Ushers: Tommy Black	Greeter: Barbara Presnell
Bill Gilleland	Audio Visual: David Jones
	Russ Johnson, Wes Allred

*The mission of Grace Episcopal Church is to be a welcoming community of faith
guided by the life and teachings of Jesus.*

In light of this mission we strive:

- *to promote spiritual growth and healing through worship, study, and fellowship.*
- *to sustain a mutually supportive community*
- *to invite and include all who would seek and serve God with us.*
- *to serve those beyond our parish.*
- *to advocate social, environmental, and economic justice.*



Grace Episcopal Church

419 S. Main Street

Lexington, North Carolina 27292-3234

phone: 336-249-7211

fax: 336-249-8711

email: gracechurch@lexcominc.net

www.gracelexingtonnc.org

The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop

The Right Reverend Samuel Rodman, Diocesan Bishop

The Right Reverend Anne Hodges-Copple, Bishop Suffragan

The Venerable Jan Lamb, Archdeacon

The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector

Joan Clodfelter, Organist & Choir Director

Carrie Ingram, Christian Education & Communications Director

Maureen Tincher, Parish Administrator

John Taylor, Facilities Manager



THE VESTRY

Tommy Black - Sr. Warden

Miles Cleckley - Treasurer

Linda Cox - Clerk

Belinda MacKinstry

Wes Allred

Pam Harvey - Jr. Warden

Sandra Husted

Mark Petruzzi

Walter Beeker

David Jones

Cathy Riggan

Robin Sink

The Vestry person of the month for December is Walter Beeker.