

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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Sunday Bible Study at 9:45 a.m. in the church library
Children's Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. in Cooper Hall
Holy Eucharist at 11:00 a.m.

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

The Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Comfort Ye My People

Handel

76 Entrance Hymn (vs. 1, 2, 3, and 5) *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry* Winchester New

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People *His mercy endures for ever.*

The Celebrant may say

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.*

S102 Trisagion

All sing three times.

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people: 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.**

The people sit.

The Word of God

The First Lesson Baruch 5:1-9

Lector A reading from the Book of Baruch.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name,
"Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look toward the east,

and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies;

but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made
low
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.

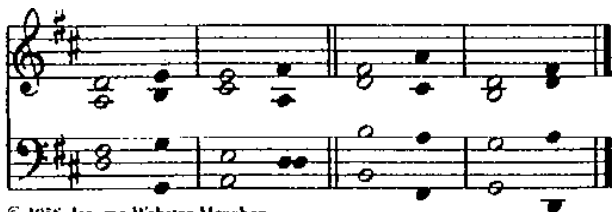
For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Lector The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 1:68-79 The Song of Zechariah

(all chant the canticle on the following tone)



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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.

The Epistle Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

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.

Lector The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

65 Sequence Hymn

Prepare the way, O Zion

Bereden vag for Herran

The Holy Gospel Luke 3:1-6

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

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."

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The congregation may stand.

The 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.**

The Prayers of the People

Form II

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops, Michael and Rob; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Carlton Gillam, in whose memory the altar arrangements are given, and Don Everett.

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for **John Tolbert, Bobbie and Rendol Cobb, Julia Credle, Peggy Parker, Riley Raines, Mary Gillam, Rita Hoggard, Beth Bryant, Daniel Perry, Ray Riddick, Steve Wilson, Fred Spencer**, and others known to us.

Silence

I ask your thanksgiving for our diocesan cycle of prayer: Church of the Advent, Williamston.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Deacon or Celebrant then says:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.** *(Please stay in your pew.)*

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Blessed Be The God Of Israel

Hopson

(Please place your offering in the plate in the narthex as you enter or exit. During the anthem, the altar will be prepared for the Holy Communion.)

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest says
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 our thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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:

Celebrant and People

**S 130 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

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 Thomas, Mary and Joseph and 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,

**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 *The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said*

W875 Fraction Anthem

Choir: Be known to us Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread

All: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Choir: The bread which we break, alleluia, Is the communion of the body of Christ.

All: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Choir: One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread.

All: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation:

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.

Ministration of Communion

The bread and the wine will be offered in stations near the chancel steps. After the choir receives communion, the lectern side will receive first. Everyone should use the lectern side of the aisle going to communion; use the pulpit side of the aisle going back to your seat. We are using biodegradable cups for the wine. Please pick up your own cup, step away from the table, and then deposit the cup into the trash can located in the first pew. Please let an usher know if you prefer to have communion brought to you.

Post Communion Prayer

After Communion, all stand and the Celebrant says:

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

***Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.***

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.

67 Dismissal Hymn

Comfort, comfort, ye my people

Psalm 42

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Savior of the Nations Come

Wold

*The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Nancy Gillam Spruill
in remembrance of Carlton Gillam on his birthday.*

The Ministers of the Liturgy

Celebrant: The Rev. Bonnie J. Smith

Organist: Tom Parker

Lector: Tra Perry

Acolyte: Winston Warren

Altar Guild: Marti Tyler, Agnes Powell, Alice Pittman, and Rosanna Rhea

Hostesses: Cathy Wilson, Nancy Joyner, and Clara Blanchard

Counters: Tra Perry, Dean Fisk

Usher: Steve Trowell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Crayons and coloring pages are available in the narthex.

The choir will meet for rehearsal on Wednesday, December 8, at 6:00 p.m.

The nursery will be available the first three Sundays in December.

The annual congregational meeting is scheduled for next Sunday, December 12. We need to elect 3 delegates to diocesan convention, scheduled for February 11 and 12 in Wilmington. We will also elect 3 new vestry members. Lunch will be served.

Monetary donations for church greenery are welcome. They can also be made in memory or in thanksgiving.

With wine being offered again for communion, we need additional licensed lay eucharistic ministers. If you are interested in being trained and licensed, please let the priest know.