

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Second Sunday of Advent
December 9, 2012, 9:30 am

Luke 3:4b

We worship during Advent according to the Holy Eucharist: Rite Two,
beginning on page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.....56
Verses 1, 2, 4, & 8

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.**

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.**

Hymn of Praise: *Alleluia, He Is Coming*.....SH-72

Advent Wreath Observance (*the people continue standing*)

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight
in the desert a highway for our God.

Lighting of the first and second Advent candles in silence

**Heavenly Father, help us to remember that you are
always with us. Cleanse our hearts of all thoughts
and desires that keep us from loving you and our
neighbor and fill us with your love that we may be
prepared to receive your Son when he comes, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for
ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
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 Lessons (the people sit)

The First Lesson – 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.
Thanks be to God.

The Canticle – Canticle 16, Page 92 BCP
The Song of Zechariah, Luke 1:68-79

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 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
forever. Amen.**

The Epistle – 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.
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Sequence – Luke 3:1-6 (the people stand)

Hymn: *Hail To the Lord's Anointed*.....616
Verses 1-3

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

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Hymn: *Hail To the Lord's Anointed*.....616
Verses 4-5

Sermon

The Nicene Creed (*the people stand*)

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 III, page 387 of the Book of Common Prayer)

Father, we pray for Church of the Messiah, Heflin; for Grace Church, Sheffield; for our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché; for the Diocesan Department of Finance; for the Diocesan Disciplinary Board; and 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 Katharine, our presiding bishop, for Kee and Santosh, our bishops, for Arnold, our priest, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

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

We pray for Barack, our President; for Robert, our governor; for Bobby, our mayor; and 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 suffer from any grief or trouble.

That they may be delivered from their distress.

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.

Let us pray for **Lynda Denton, Dot Harris, Alice Williams, Lannon Poole, Dawn Jones** (Jere and Pam VanEtten), **Amber, Jared and Dezzel Oliver** (Kathy Haynie), **Brandon Boland** (Cathy Jones), **Bobby Borden** (Amanda Borden), **Chris Eady** (Lynne Eady), **Lisa Wallace** (Laura Williams), **Leni Young** (Pat Jordan), **Jenna Moates** (Kelli Kerr), **Wilson Owen Weaver** – Thanksgiving (Jere and Pam Van Etten), **John Myer** (Ann Easley, John and Kathy Haynie), **Chelsea Baker** (Ann Easley), **Ed Clayton** (Jean Kerr), **Billie Wilkinson, Lindsey Burt** (Eddie and Pam Harper), **Jimmie Cantrell** (Al Cantrell), and the others we now name: (*the people here add their own petitions*). Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin (the people stand or kneel)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

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 peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn: *Prepare the Way, O Zion*.....65

The Presentation

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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:

The people sing (found in the Hymnal at S 129)

**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.

The people stand or kneel

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,

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

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,

**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.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

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.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

Communion Hymn: *Be Still My Soul*

**Be still, my soul; the Lord is on thy side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; thy best, thy heavenly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**Be still, my soul; thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence, let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.**

After Communion, the people stand or kneel and the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

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 Blessing

Recessional Hymn (*the people stand*)

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry.....76

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

What should our Sunday schedule look like? What should we be trying to accomplish on Sunday mornings? The vestry (John Haynie, Jere Van Etten, Jimmy Weldon, Laura Williams, Ann Easley, and Amanda Borden) is reflecting on this now. Please let one of the Vestry members know of your preferences!

Serving at Epiphany this week

Ushers: Greg DuBay and Lynne Eady
Altar Guild: Ann Easley and Laura Williams
Lay Reader: Betty Weldon

Chalice Bearer: Lee Borden
Refreshments: Kathy Haynie
Stewards: Eddie and Pam Harper

And next

Ushers: Jere and Pam Van Etten
Altar Guild: Jean Kerr
Lay Reader: Mike Edwards

Chalice Bearer: John Haynie
Refreshments: Ann Easley
Stewards: Maurice and Debra McCord