

"The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name."

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2012, 9:30 am

Luke 1:49

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, 6, & 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.**

Advent Wreath Observance (*the people continue standing*)

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

Lighting of all four Advent candles in silence

Holy Father, as we wait for the coming of your Son, help us to recognize him in those we know and also in the stranger. Help us to love not only our families and our friends, but also our enemies. Help us to be patient and to be prepared to receive your Son in our hearts, 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.

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.**

The Lessons (the people sit)

The First Lesson – Micah 5:2-5a

But 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.

Canticle 15 Page 91, BCP

The Song of Mary – *Magnificat* - Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

**the Almighty has done great things for me, and
holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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 – Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, 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.

The Gospel Sequence – Luke 1:39-45 (the people stand)

Hymn: *Be Thou My Vision*.....488
Verses 1-2

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Hymn: *Be Thou My Vision*.....488
Verse 3

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, Charlotte and 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 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: *Savior of the Nations, Come!*54

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.

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*)

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus.....*66

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Serving at Epiphany this week

Ushers: Lee & Amanda Borden
Altar Guild: Cathy Jones
Lay Reader: Nancy Dupree

Chalice Bearer: Laura Williams
Refreshments: Al Cantrell
Stewards: Jere & Pam Van Etten

Ushers: Maurice and Debra McCord
Altar Guild: Not yet determined
Lay Reader: Jean Kerr

Chalice Bearer: Jean Kerr
Refreshments: None
Stewards: None

And Christmas Eve