

Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

From Luke 3:4, quoting Isaiah 40:3

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Holy Eucharist  
December 9, 2018, 10:30 am

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

*We begin the service in silence.*

### Lighting the Advent Wreath

I light these candles to remind us that we must prepare our hearts for  
the coming of the Christ Child.

Processional Hymn: *People Look East*.....(songsheet)

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
**His mercy endures forever.**

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.**

*Glory to God*.....S 280

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 – Baruch 5:1-9

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.

The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

#### The Second Lesson – Canticle 16 Page 92 BCP

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 Lesson – 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.



That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.  
**To thee, O Lord our God.**

*Silence*

*The Celebrant may add 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.**

Gathering Hymn: *Alleluia, He is Coming*.....SH 72:1  
(When the music begins, please begin singing and find your seat)

**Joys and Concerns of the Congregation**

**The Offertory**

Offertory Hymn (we remain seated) *Of the Father's Love Begotten*.....82:1  
*Esther will play the hymn in its entirety, and then we will sing*

Presentation Hymn: (we stand) *Prepare the Way, O Zion*.....65:1

**The Holy Eucharist**

**Eucharistic Prayer D (page 372 BCP)**

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 truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Sanctus: *Holy, Holy, Holy*.....S 129

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember all who minister in your Church. Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and 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.*

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

Fraction Anthem: *Jesus, Lamb of God*.....S 164

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.

Communion Hymn: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*.....324

*After Communion, the people stand or kneel.*

Let us pray.

**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

Recessional Hymn: *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying*.....75

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

We are delighted that The Rev. Stephen McWhorter has returned to serve as our supply priest today. Welcome back, Stephen!

Join us in the nave at 2:00 today for selected choruses from Handel's *Messiah*. The concert will be finished by 3:00.

Our Confirmation Classes will resume next Sunday at 9:30 am in the Little House. Maurice McCord will lead a discussion about the teachings of The Episcopal Church.

<b>Serving at Epiphany this week:</b> Ushers: Dana Barlow and Mike Rallo Altar Guild: Cathy Jones Lay Reader: Kay Dickey Eucharistic Lay Minister: Lee Borden Refreshments: Lavonne Hart	<b>And next:</b> Ushers: Lavonne Hart and Jimmy Weldon Altar Guild: Elizabeth Harber Lay Reader: Maurice McCord Eucharistic Lay Minister: Kay Dickey Refreshments: Dana Barlow
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