

From this day all generations will call me
blessed . . .

Luke 48:1b (from the *Magnificat*)

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Morning Prayer
December 23, 2018, 10:30 am

We worship today according to the appointed order for Morning Prayer, Rite Two,
beginning on page 75 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.

**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.**

We will stand for the Processional Hymn.

Processional Hymn: *Praise We the Lord This Day*.....267

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

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence. We stand or kneel.

**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 us, forgive us all our sins through
our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the
power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter (*we stand*)

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**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. Alleluia.**

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

Jubilate Psalm 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
**serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.**

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
**he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age

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 Lessons

The First Lesson – Micah 5:2-5a

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 11 – The First Song of Isaiah – page 87 BCP

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

For behold, darkness covers the land; *
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.

But over you the Lord will rise, *
and his glory will appear upon you.

Nations will stream to your light, *
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.

Your gates will always be open; *
by day or night they will never be shut.

They will call you, The City of the Lord, *
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
ruin or destruction within your borders.

You will call your walls, Salvation, *
and all your portals, Praise.

The sun will no more be your light by day; *
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.

The Lord will be your everlasting light, *
and your God will be your glory.

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 – Hebrews 10:5-10

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

Canticle 18 – A Song to the Lamb – page 93 BCP

Splendor and honor and kingly power *
are yours by right, O Lord our God,

For you created everything that is, *
and by your will they were created and have their being;

And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, *
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,

From every family, language, people, and nation, *
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.

And so, to him who sits upon the throne, *
and to Christ the Lamb,

Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, *
for ever and for evermore.

Hymn: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (we stand).....56:1,7*

The Gospel Lesson – Luke 1:39-45 (*we sit*)

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 word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The Apostles' Creed *(we all stand)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
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.
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. Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Gathering Hymn: *Alleluia, He Is Comin'*.....SH 72:1

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The Offering

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

The Prayers *(we stand or kneel)*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

**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.**

Suffrage

Show us your mercy, O Lord;
And grant us your salvation.

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
Let your people sing with joy.

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
For only in you can we live in safety.

Lord, keep this nation under your care;
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let your way be known upon earth;
Your saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for this Parish

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Mission

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

In our parish we pray for those who are sick or recovering from illness, including **Brian Hudson, Jere Van Etten, Greg Dubay, Barbara Trogdon, Laura Foss, John Haynie, Mike Oniffrey, Diane Ellison,** and the others we now name.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for our Companion Diocese of the Virgin Islands and its bishop, Ambrose; Ministries for infants and children; St. John’s, Decatur; St. John’s, Montgomery; and St. John’s in the Prairie, Forkland.

A Prayer for Our New Growth and Development Team

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

Recessional Hymn: *Tell Out, My Soul*.....437

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Join us on Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm in the nave for a Christmas Festival of Lessons and Music. We’ll finally get a chance to sing all those Christmas carols for which we’ve been waiting! The service should conclude by 6:00 or so, and we’ll adjourn to the Little House for refreshments. Feel free to bring a bottle of wine and something to nibble on. And for planning, please let Betty Weldon or Cathy Jones know you’ll be staying for the party!

Lost in the hubbub and pageantry of Christmas are three feasts, often forgotten:

- December 26 is the Feast of St Stephen, Deacon and Martyr. St Stephen was the first Christian martyr. One of the witnesses to his stoning was Saul of Tarsus, who later became Paul the apostle.
- December 27 is the Feast of St John the Apostle and Evangelist. John was the brother of James and by tradition the author of the Gospel of John, the three letters of John, and the Book of Revelation.
- December 28 is the Feast of the Holy Innocents, commemorating the slaughter by King Herod of all the young children in Bethlehem in his futile attempt to destroy Jesus. This feast is also sometimes called Childermas.

Confirmation Classes resume next Sunday, December 30, in the Little House. Join us at 9:30 when Kathy Haynie teaches about Spirituality in The Episcopal Church.

Serving at Epiphany this week: Ushers: Kay and Mike Dickey Altar Guild: Lavonne Hart Lay Reader: Mike Rallo Officiant: Maurice McCord Refreshments: Kay Dickey	And tomorrow night for the Christmas Festival of Lessons and Music: Ushers: Jimmy and Betty Weldon Altar Guild: Lavonne Hart Officiants: Dana Barlow, Amanda Borden, and Lee Borden Lighting: Jimmy Weldon Refreshments: Betty Weldon and Cathy Jones
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