

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 2020

8 A.M. ANTE COMMUNION RITE I

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Blessed art thou, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:
to thee be praise and glory for ever.
Thy light has shone in our darkened world
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;
grant that we who have seen thy glory
may daily be renewed in thy image
and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,
who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

Blessed be God for ever.

Opening Acclamation	319 (prayer book)
Confession	320 (prayer book)
Kyrie	324 (prayer book)
Collect of the Day	211 (prayer book)

I reading—2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Reader: A reading from Second Samuel

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 86: 1-4, 19-26

Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; *
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *

you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
 I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
 'I will establish your line for ever, *
 and preserve your throne for all generations.'"

You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *
 "I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
 I have found David my servant; *
 with my holy oil have I anointed him.
 My hand will hold him fast *
 and my arm will make him strong.
 No enemy shall deceive him, *
 nor any wicked man bring him down.
 I will crush his foes before him *
 and strike down those who hate him.
 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
 and he shall be victorious through my Name.
 I shall make his dominion extend *
 from the Great Sea to the River.
 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, *
 my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

II reading—Romans 16: 25-27

Reader: A reading from the letter to the Romans

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Gospel—Luke 1: 26-38

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke

People: Glory be to thee, O Christ

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child

to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Homily	The Rev. Catherine Carpenter
The Nicene Creed	326 (prayer book)
Prayers of the People	see below
The Lord’s Prayer	336 (prayer book)
The Peace	332 (prayer book)

The Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love, **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Dismissal 340 (prayer book)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant

As we wait with pregnant expectation for the coming of Jesus, let us offer prayers to God who sends his Son in the womb of a virgin.

Intercessor

For the coming of Jesus Christ in power and glory.

silence

Lord, in thy mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For the coming of Wisdom to teach and guide us.

silence

Lord, in thy mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For the coming of Emmanuel, the hope of all the peoples.

silence

Lord, in thy mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ.

silence

Lord, in thy mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, DeDe our bishop and all bishops, for our rector Cathy and all the presbyters, for the deacons and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. And especially for our parish families, Scott & Pam Griffio, Emily Johnson

silence

Lord, in thy mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place. Especially for St. Thomas Church in Slaterville Springs and St. Matthew's Church in South New Berlin. In our companion diocese, for Misión San Esteban.

silence

Lord, in thy mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority.

silence

Lord, in thy mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth.

silence

Lord, in thy mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, and for those in prison and especially Gordon Tall, John Rogers, Garth Foster, Agnes Morgan, Fern Butler, Dottie Carrie, Rahel Reger, Donny Witkowski, Tom Mangan, Joyce Rowan, David Gentry, Jason, Bill, Steven, Merle, Sharon, Linda, Linda W., Becky, Alice, Debbie, James, Rosalee, Dawn, Lila, Missy, Bill, Erin, Penny, Ann, Sue, Mary Ann, Barb, Anna, Jerry, Isabella, Neva, Jeannie

...and those we now name, silently or aloud,

silence

Lord, in thy mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For those who rest in Christ and for all the departed especially Edith Rogers and Dottie Divers, and those whom we now name silently or aloud

silence

Lord, in thy mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need.

silence

Lord, in thy mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Joining our voices with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Celebrant

O Emmanuel, our king and lawgiver, desire of all nations and savior of all peoples, come and save us, O Lord our God. Glory to thee for ever. **Amen.**



GRACE'S MISSION STATEMENT

*To be a visible sign of Christ's love,
seeking and serving Christ in all persons.*

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