



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

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# Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Holy Eucharist Rite Two

Sunday, December 20, 2020

## The Word of God

### Entrance Rite

**OPENING HYMN** *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord*

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age the same;  
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

### COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.*

## SONG OF PRAISE

## *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*

*Sung*

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Fill ev'ry valley, bring all mountains low.

Go up to a mountain and shout with a loud voice.

Say to all people, here is your God.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.

*People*            And also with you.

*Celebrant*        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

### FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A Reading from the Second book of Samuel.

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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?" <sup>8</sup>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; <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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, <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26**

<sup>1</sup>Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.  
<sup>2</sup>For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.  
<sup>3</sup>“I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:  
<sup>4</sup>“I will establish your line forever, \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations.’”  
<sup>19</sup>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.  
<sup>20</sup>I have found David my servant; \*  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.  
<sup>21</sup>My hand will hold him fast \*  
and my arm will make him strong.  
<sup>22</sup>No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
nor any wicked man bring him down.  
<sup>23</sup>I will crush his foes before him \*  
and strike down those who hate him.  
<sup>24</sup>My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.  
<sup>25</sup>I shall make his dominion extend \*  
from the Great Sea to the River.  
<sup>26</sup>He will say to me, ‘You are my Father, \*  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.’”

### **SECOND READING:       Romans 16:25-27**

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

<sup>25</sup>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 <sup>26</sup>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—<sup>27</sup>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.

## **INSTRUMENTAL ALLELUIA**

### **GOSPEL:    Luke 1:26-38**

*Priest*        The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*People*        Glory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>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.

*Priest*        The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*        Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **THE SERMON**

**FR. RUSS JOHNSON**

## **THE CREED**

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**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy  
***Hear our prayer.***

We give thanks for those who celebrate birthdays this week: especially – ***Tish Arroyo*** and for those celebrating anniversaries

Lord, in your mercy  
***Hear our prayer.***

For those members of St. Matthew's who are ill or for whom our prayers have been requested, and those whose names are on our parish intercession list and for those whose names were added this week, and for those now mentioned either silently or aloud.

Lord, in your mercy  
***Hear our prayer.***

For the Church, that it may not grow weary of proclaiming the gospel of Christ and serve as beacon of hope to a suffering world. We pray for Justin, The Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, the Presiding Bishop, Martin, the Bishop of West Missouri, the St. Matthew's Vestry, and all who minister in your name.

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer.***

For all affected by the Coronavirus around the world. For the leaders of the nations that they may work together for the common good as the outbreak spreads. May barriers that divide be brought down that bonds of trust may be strengthened to benefit the entire human family.

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer.***

For healthcare workers, who with hearts of service, stand on the front lines of providing care. Grant them courage and protection as they put the needs of public safety before their own.

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer.***

For those in positions who serve the public. Grant them wisdom, patience, strength, and protection as they serve the public need.

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer***

Bless scientists and researchers around the world as they combat the virus. We pray for the swift distribution of the vaccine to all people.

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer.***

We intercede for those in whom we entrust the governance of this land. We pray especially for Donald, our president and Joseph our president elect, our elected representatives; the courts; and all in positions of authority. We remember the men and women of our armed forces serving at home or abroad, especially those in harm's way and those recovering from injury. We commend our nation to your care as we strive for greater racial justice. Turn our hearts to honor one another's dignity that we might prioritize your purposes and work for the well-being of the vulnerable.

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer.***

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal.

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

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.

*The Priest stands and says:*

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**

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

## **The Holy Communion**

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.  
*Psalm 50:14*

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.  
*People*            And also with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* We lift them to the Lord.  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* 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:

## **SANCTUS**

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.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully

receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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,  
    forever and ever. Amen.

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

### **FRACTION ANTHEM**

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

### **PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

### **COMMUNION TAIZE     *Our Soul is Waiting for God***

Our soul is waiting for God; Our hearts find joy in the Lord

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.

### **ADVENT BLESSING**

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path;  
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and  
remain with you always.

*Amen.*

### **CLOSING HYMN** *Come, thou long-expected Jesus (Stuttgart)*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art:  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

### **DISMISSAL**

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

**Please join us for a virtual coffee hour after the service!**