

FOURTH OF ADVENT DECEMBER 20, 2020

Prelude

“Away in the Manger”

Announcements

Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle

This is the candle of love. In the First Epistle of John we read: “See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are...this message we have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.”

Christian love is not simply warm feelings. It is a commitment to live in a way that serves others. Because God loves us in Christ, we can show daily compassion for our neighbors as Christ’s disciples.

Confession & Absolution

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sins, and whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(Silence for reflection)

Most merciful God:

C **We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**



Opening Hymn

“Hark the Glad Sound”

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Apostolic Greeting

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

Kyrie

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| P | Lord have mercy. | C | Lord have mercy. |
| P | Christ have mercy. | C | Christ have mercy. |
| P | Lord have mercy. | C | Lord have mercy. |



Prayer of the Day

P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading - II Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the 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.' ³Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

⁴ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I 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. ⁷Wherever 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?' ⁸Now 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; ⁹and 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. ¹⁰And 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, ¹¹from 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. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

P Holy wisdom, holy word.

C Thanks be to God.

Song

Luke 2: 46b-55

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'



Second Reading - Romans 16:25-27

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 ages²⁶ 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—²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

P Holy wisdom, holy word. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel according Luke Chapter 1: 26-38

C **Glory to you O Lord.**

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon



- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.

- 2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.

- 3 The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold.

- 4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

NICENE 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



Prayers of the People

AM With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all God's creation.

For the Church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the Gospel, Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM For the well-being of all creation. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM For peace and justice in the world, for all nations, for all in authority, and for our community. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM For the poor, oppressed, the sick, bereaved and lonely. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM For St. Paul's, its members and mission, and for any other needs you may now raise in your homes.....Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Thanksgiving of the Word

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C We give you thanks and praise.

P By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C We give you thanks and praise.

P Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C **We give you thanks and praise.**

P Send forth your Spirit of truth, O God: rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C **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**

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you, the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.

C **Amen.**



Closing Hymn

“Blessed be The God of Israel”

- 1 Blessed be the God of Israel
who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us:
a Branch from David’s tree.
So have the prophets long declared
that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies
and all who wish us harm.
- 2 With promised mercy will God still
the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham,
from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear
and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness
to serve God all our days.
- 3 My child, as prophet of the Lord
you will prepare the way,
to tell God’s people they are saved
from sin’s eternal sway.
Then shall God’s mercy from on high
shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death
and lead us into peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79
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Dismissal

- P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and your neighbors.
C Amen.

Postlude

“On Christmas Night”

**The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God and in memory of
Suzanne Seitz given with love by her parents Fran and Alan Seitz.**

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

The following is a listing of those who need your prayers. Our hope is that you will take this listing home with you and in your daily prayers remember those listed below.

Jim Abbott
Francine Ahrens
Pat Alexander
Vinnie Aparo
Edie Balkun
Elana Barkasy
Raymond Bazzolo
Judith (Ross) Beatty
Kevin Belkofer & Family
Jim Bement
Rebecca Bement
Richard Bertoli
Gurvinder Bharara
Armando Binelli
Brian & Lisa Bodnar
Joe Brancato
Rosanne & Keith Brilliant
George Bruno
Brusseau Family
Eddie Burns
Theo & Victoria Camara
Peter Carbone, Sr.
Liz Clinton
Jill Cochrhne
Nancy Colon
Wayne Crossman
Barry Demkar
Sigrid Devita
Melissa Dias
Doris & Dutch Deitman
Gerard Doll
Betsy Durstin
Diane & Paul Edwards
Judy Elliott
Bruce & Liz Falls
Christy Ferro
Elizabeth Fico
Barbra Fletcher
Holly & Elsie Florio
Ed Ford
Mary Lynn Gagnon
Gabby Gerken
Bob & Ann Gioscia
Carol Gesner
Pastor Wayne Gollenberg
Connie & Don Gugenheim
Wayne Hall
Owen Hanecak
Erica Haraldsen
Alexis Heintz
Bill Heintz
Brad Herzberg
David Hilton
Jim Hornfischer
Vicki Jene

Jenn Johnson & Family
Bob Jones
Ed Killingbeck
Lynn Killingbeck
Rick and Christa Kozik
Burke LaClair
Jeff Lajoie and family
Lori Ledone & family
Rebecca Little
Tommy Locascio
Judy Ludwig
Rita Lundeen
Ida Mallet
Mervin Mank
Cynthia Marine
Richard Marine
Bob & Lynn Milano
Barbara Miller
Ruth Mohlenhoff
Lonnie & Rose Moranino
Richard Mortlock
Carolyn Mosher
Denise Murphy
Doris Murphy
Michael Meyers
Joyce Nalette
Ron Nurnberg
Greg O'Brien
Tom O'Brien
Cindy O'Dell
Louis Pagano
Bruce and Kathy Panella
Gary Parker
Pastor Jim Pence
Wally Pence
Marge Raspiller
Gladys Reil
Pat Reiley
Pastor Sharon Riessinger
- Blezard
Grant Robinson
Mary Rolfe
Elfrieda Roller
Dave Roskopf
Chris Samele
Tom & Marianne
Sedgwick
Rosemary Schibi
Jay Shaw
Tricia Sherwin
Bob Sienko
Marge Skaret
Richard Stanhope
Jon Sterling
Mary Thurlough

Reid Underwood
Nathaniel Wesley
Cathy Winzler
Jean Marie Witt
Anna Woike

Karen
Katherine
Helen
JO
Jaiden
Mike
Curran
Janice
Diane
Jen
Charlie
Michelle
Jessica
Donna L.
Rich S.
Dustin
Skylar
Andrea
Kayleigh
Linda H.
Tom S.
Diane, Kayla, and family
Bob
Shannon H.
Karen M.
Ora
Sharon
Mason
Louis F.
Katherine T.
Joyce-Ann
Maryann Z.
Diane
Jack
Max
Lisa
Erin and Family
Pam
Jack & Barbara
Lorraine
The Maxwell Family
The Loomis Family

**Family and friends of
Linda Shaw**

Our Nursing Home Members

Doug Little
Vinetta Nigels
Doris Houk
Dee Gammon
Richard Regner

Our Military Friends

Lord Jesus, Savior of the World and King of Peace, watch over our sons and daughters in the service of their Country. Protect them from the physical and moral dangers. Keep them close to you and help them live the commandments. Lord, Jesus give them courage to serve their country with honor and dignity. Be with them when they are in danger; strengthen them when they face hardship. Above all Lord, grant that when their service is finished that they may return to us, sound in mind, body and soul. Amen.

Pvt. Brennan Thompson
Tyler Quinn
Eric Beyus
Major Zachary Fulton
Brandan Holbrook
Jonathan Connell
Tom Gregg, Jr.
Brion Olivero
Eric Bremer
Peter Hutchinson
S/W Anderson James
Ernst USCG
PFC Dominic Boscarino

If you place a name on the Prayer List, it is your responsibility to let the office know either by Prayer of Concerns form in the Narthex, e-mail or a quick phone call, once per month if the name needs to remain on the list. Thank you.