

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 20, 2020**

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**THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

*Celebrant*      Blessed are you, holy and living One.  
*People*        **You come to your people and set them free.**

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**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.**

**First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

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.

**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.

## **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 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

## **Sequence Hymn**

## **The Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38**

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.

SERMON      The Rev. Polly Robb

## **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.**

**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.**

**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  
Who with the Father and the Son is  
worshiped and glorified.**

**Who spoke 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**

*Leader:* Brothers and sisters, may God strengthen our hearts in holiness as we await the coming of our Lord.

*Leader:* God, our hope, grant us the grace to increase and abound in love for one another. Keep your Church on the paths of love and faithfulness. We pray especially for.... O come, O come, Emmanuel,

*People:* **Be our hope and our salvation.**

*Leader:* God, our hope, usher in your reign of justice and righteousness. Grant our leaders the will to make wise decisions for the good of all people so that all the world know your peace and safety. We pray especially for ....O come, O come, Emmanuel,

*People:* **Be our hope and our salvation.**

*Leader:* God, our hope, you sent your messengers to prepare the way. Give us the eyes to see, the wisdom to prepare, and the faith to trust in you. O come, O come, Emmanuel,

*People:* **Be our hope and our salvation.**

*Leader:* God our hope, under your reign divisions are overcome, unity restored: bring the people from city, village, and town together in a spirit of love and respect. O come, O come, Emmanuel,

*People:* **Be our hope and our salvation.**

*Leader:* God our hope, remember your compassion and love. Heal and restore the sick and the suffering, the anxious and the grieving, especially.... O come, O come, Emmanuel,

*People:* **Be our hope and our salvation.**

*Leader:* God our hope, keep us blameless before you that we may meet the coming of our Lord Jesus with joy. May we, and all who have died, especially Brad, Dawson, and Darlene, rise to life immortal with all your saints. O come, O come, Emmanuel,

*People:* **Be our hope and our salvation.**

*Celebrant:* Hear the prayers of your people, O Lord, and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the honor and glory of your name, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### THE CONFESSION

**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.**

#### HOLY COMMUNION from reserved sacrament

OFFERTORY SENTENCE: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offering and come into his courts.

We believe that in the Holy Eucharist, the elements of bread and wine are not mere signs, but that Christ himself is really present. In fellowship with the whole Church of God, with all who have been brought together by the Holy Spirit to worship on this day, and who have celebrated the Eucharist, let us rejoice that we are called to be part of the body of Christ.

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, did institute the Sacrament of His Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION *The congregation will all receive at the same time with the words:*

*"The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation."*

#### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**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.**

#### BLESSING AND DISMISSAL