The Holy Eucharist
The Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

8:00 AM
Newcomers and visitors, the community of Saint Mark’s welcomes you. We hope that you will feel at home in this place and in this liturgy. Mothers are most welcome to breastfeed their infants during the service. Out of respect for the liturgy we are about to celebrate, please turn off all cell phones and audible devices. Please, no photography during the liturgy.

The Reverend Canon Nancy Ross, Associate to the Rector, Presider & Preacher

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE Meditation on Conditor alme siderum Sam Batt Owens (1928–1998)
[tunes of Hymn #60, “Creator of the stars of night” & #56, “O come, O Come Emmanuel”]

All rise as able.

HYMN 65 Prepare the way, O Zion • The Hymnal 1982 #65 TUNE: Bereden väg för Herran
stanzas 1 & 2

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Presider The crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
Assembly And all flesh shall see the Salvation of God.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Assembly And Blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY Book of Common Prayer, p. 355
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.

TRISAGION Book of Common Prayer, p. 356
Presider Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Assembly Have mercy upon us.
Presider Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Assembly Have mercy upon us.
Presider Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Assembly Have mercy upon us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY Book of Common Prayer, p. 211
Presider The Lord be with you.
Assembly And also with you.
Presider Let us pray.
Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

READING  Malachi 3:1–4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader  Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
Assembly  Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE  The Song of Zechariah [Luke 1:68–79]  ◆ read by all in unison

Benedictus Dominus Deus

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, 
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers * 
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, * 
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, * 
holy and righteous in his sight 
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, * 
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation * 
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God * 
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, * 
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  ◆
READING  Philippians 1:3–11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader  Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Assembly  Thanks be to God.

All rise as able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL  Luke 3:1–6

Presider  The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Assembly  Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Presider  The Gospel of the Lord.
Assembly  Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON  The Reverend Canon Nancy Ross
All rise as able.

THE 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 ASSEMBLY

After each petition:

Intercessor We look to you in hope,

Assembly Come, Lord Jesus, come.

The Presider concludes the prayers with a collect. All respond: Amen.
CONFESSION

Presider  Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

You are invited to stand or kneel for the confession.

Presider  Most merciful God,
All  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 Presider pronounces God’s forgiveness of our sins. All respond: Amen.

THE PEACE

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

All greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

All rise as able as the bread, wine and money we offer to God are brought forward and presented at the altar table.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING  Eucharistic Prayer B  Book of Common Prayer, p. 367

Presider  The Lord be with you.
Assembly  And also with you.

Presider  Lift up your hearts.
Assembly  We lift them to the Lord.

Presider  Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Assembly  It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider  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:

All  Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Presider  We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Him you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

All  We remember his death,
      We proclaim his resurrection,
      We await his coming in glory;

Presider  And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

All  AMEN.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

All  Our Father in heaven,
      hallowed be your Name,
      your kingdom come,
      your will be done,
      on earth as in heaven.
      Give us today our daily bread.
      Forgive us our sins
      as we forgive those
      who sin against us.
      Save us from the time of trial,
      and deliver us from evil.
      For the kingdom, the power,
      and the glory are yours,
      now and for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presider  Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Assembly  Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Presider  The gifts of God for the people of God.

All seeking God are welcome at Christ’s Table.

If you need communion brought to your seat, please let any of the liturgical ministers know.
Rice wafers for those who do not eat wheat are available; simply ask for one at the time of communion.

◆ Hold out your hand to receive the bread and then eat. Guide the chalice of wine to your mouth and then drink.
◆ Or you may leave the bread in your hand for the chalice bearer to dip in the wine and feed you.
◆ To receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY  Organ Improvisation

All rise as able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider  Eternal God,

All  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

The Presider asks God’s blessing on the Assembly. All respond: Amen.

HYMN 67  Comfort, comfort ye my people  ◆ The Hymnal 1982 #67
stanzas 1 & 2

TUNE: Genevan 42

DISMISSAL

Presider  Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Assembly  Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY  Fantasy on Helmsley

[tune of Hymn #57, “Lo, he comes with clouds descending”]

Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)

PRESIDER & PREACHER
The Reverend Canon Nancy Ross

ASSISTING LAY MINISTER  Kerry Allman

Eucharistic Minister  Susan Knirk

LECTOR  Jean Rolfe

INTERCESSOR  Mary Dickinson

ALTAR GUILD  Sue Tait

ORGANIST  John Stuntebeck