

St. James Episcopal Church
Morning Prayer, Rite II

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate and worship God this fine morning. Feel free to speak the “people” part of the service along with those present at the church. Otherwise, simply participate with us as you would if you were sitting in the pew: join with the rest of the congregation, spread out though close in prayer, as we turn our hearts to God.

Opening Hymn #66 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sings 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.

Opening Sentences

BCP p 75

The Officiant celebrant begins

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in
the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

Confession of Sin

BCP p 79

The Officiant continues

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept. The Officiant and People together:

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 pronounces the absolution:

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.

People **Amen.**

The Invitatory

BCP p 80

All stand

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.
Alleluia.

All now join in saying:

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 *Misericordias Domini*

BCP p 713

1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; *
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

4 'I will establish your line for ever, *
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"

19 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.

20 I have found David my servant; *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

21 My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.

22 No enemy shall deceive him, *
nor any wicked man bring him down.

23 I will crush his foes before him *
and strike down those who hate him.

24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my Name.

25 I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.

26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, *
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

Reader: A reading from 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God!**

Canticle 15 The Song of Mary *Magnificat Luke 1:46-55* BCP p 91

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Gospel Hymn #265 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow,
his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored
lady,” Gloria!

“For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud
and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly
favored lady,” Gloria!

The Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Then, all standing, the Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to St. Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord 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

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

BCP p 97

The People stand or kneel

Officiant **The Lord be with you.**

People And also with you.

Officiant **Let us pray.**

Officiant and People

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,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

The Suffrages

BCP p 97

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Collect of the Day

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.*

A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14

Closing Hymn #56

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy
drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow
put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our king of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

St. James Episcopal Church

<i>Presiding Bishop</i>	<i>The Very Rt. Rev. Michael Curry</i>
<i>Diocesan Bishop</i>	<i>The Rt. Rev. Michael Hanley</i>
<i>Bishop-Elect</i>	<i>The Rev. Dr. Diana Akiyama</i>
<i>Vicar</i>	<i>The Rev. Timothy Hannon</i>

Today's worship leaders

<i>Officiant</i>	<i>The Rev. Timothy Hannon</i>
<i>Lector</i>	<i>Chip Boggs</i>
<i>Organist</i>	<i>Lisa Crew</i>
<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Laura Dillard</i>

*Today's liturgy is from the Book of Common Prayer.
Music licensing is under OneLicense.*

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