



## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

18 December A.D. 2016

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist

(The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson, *Rector*

The Rev. Javier García Ocampo, *Assistant to the Rector*

Jason Cutshall, *Seminarian*

Jerrold Tidwell, *Minister of Music*

Welcome to Ascension!

For more information about our community, fill out a welcome card, found at either end of the pews, or take one of our welcome packets from the table next to the church office door.

We meet for coffee, tea, and snacks in the Narthex after each service.

The Nursery in Room 2 is open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Within the bulletin, the people read the parts in bold print.

♦ Please silence your audible devices ♦

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### THE WORD OF GOD

Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**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.**

Holy God.

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

**Have mercy upon us.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

#### **Romans 1:1-7**

From Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for God's good news. God promised this good news about his Son ahead of time through his prophets in the holy scriptures. His Son was descended from David. He was publicly identified as God's Son with power through his resurrection from the dead, which was based on the Spirit of holiness. This Son is Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received God's grace and our appointment to be apostles. This was to bring all Gentiles to faithful obedience for his name's sake. You who are called by Jesus Christ are also included among these Gentiles. To those in Rome who are dearly loved by God and called to be God's people.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18**

1 Shepherd of Israel, listen!

**You, the one who leads Joseph as if he were a sheep.**

**You, who are enthroned upon the winged heavenly creatures.**

2 Show yourself before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh!

**Wake up your power!**

**Come to save us!**

3 Restore us, God!

**Make your face shine so that we can be saved!**

4 Lord God of heavenly forces,

**how long will you fume against your people's prayer?**

5 You've fed them bread made of tears;

**you've given them tears to drink three times over!**

6 You've put us at odds with our neighbors;

**our enemies make fun of us.**

7 Restore us, God of heavenly forces!

**Make your face shine so that we can be saved!**

16 It is burned with fire. It is chopped down.

**They die at the rebuke coming from you.**

17 **Let your hand be with the one on your right side—**

with the one whom you secured as your own—

18 **then we will not turn away from you!**

Revive us so that we can call on your name.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew [1:18-25]

**Glory To You, Lord Christ.**

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

*Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
And they will call him, Emmanuel*

(*Emmanuel* means "God with us.")

<sup>2</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

Barb Mansfield

## 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.  
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: Form VI

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;  
**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Mariann our Bishop, Randy and Javier, our clergy, Jason, our seminarian, and all bishops and other ministers;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. You may add your own prayers at this time silently or aloud.

Sandy Boynton, Monica Koenig Caphart, Joann Gertig, Diane Goldman, Sarah Rubin, Roz Silver-Marcotte, Lou and Janet Spenser, Fran Spina and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We pray for peace in the world and all who are serving our country here and abroad, especially those in harm's way, and their families.

Equip us and empower us to be witnesses to your love – as advocates and as servants, as ministers of welcome and of hope for refugees and all affected by natural disasters, violence, and war.

We pray for all special intentions, and those on our extended Healing Prayer List.

Hear us, Lord;  
**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. You may offer your own prayers of thanksgiving at this time.

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We give thanks for the life of Clara A. Thomas, in whose memory the altar flower was given by her daughter Enid Cole.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;**

**and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*All kneel. Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and People*

*The Celebrant alone 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**

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

**Announcements**

*Please stand at the presentation of the money and food offerings.*

## HOLY COMMUNION

### **Eucharistic Prayer A**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our 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:

**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.**

*You may stand or kneel during the Eucharistic Prayer.*

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:

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

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**

*As our Savior Christ  
has taught us,  
we now pray,*

Our Father in heaven,  
holy is 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.

*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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

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

***Administration of the Sacrament:** All are welcome to the Lord's Table at Ascension. To receive communion, come to the communion station at the direction of the Welcome Team. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. Eat the bread and then drink from the cup when it is offered to you, or you may hold the bread and dip it into the wine when the cup is offered to you. Gluten-free wafers are also available. Make your need known to the Clergy by holding up three fingers. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than receive communion, please join in the movement to the communion station and cross your arms over the front of your chest - this will alert the Clergy of your desire to be blessed. If you need communion brought to you please let a member of the Welcome Team know.*

***Healing Prayers:** If you would like to receive the laying on of hands for healing for yourself or another, go to the prayer annex beside the pulpit after receiving communion. A healing minister will be there to pray with you.*

*When there is a Eucharistic Visitor present*

We send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those whom you visit may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

**People:** We who are many are one body because we all share one bread and one cup.

Let us pray.

## Prayer after Communion

Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Blessing

Life is short, and we do not have too much time  
to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.  
So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.  
And may the blessing of the one who made us,  
who journeys with us,  
who breathes us into life moment by moment,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,  
be upon you  
this day and always.  
*Amen.*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## WORSHIP LEADERS

### This Week

|                                  |                 |  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>Reader:</b>                   | <b>7:45 am</b>  | Leslie Sanya                                       |
|                                  | <b>9:00 am</b>  | Andrew Greene<br>Suzyn Gonzalez                    |
|                                  | <b>11:15 am</b> | Anne Brink   |
| <b>Prayers:</b>                  | <b>7:45 am</b>  | Leslie Sanya                                       |
|                                  | <b>9:00 am</b>  | Betsy Hasegawa                                     |
| <b>Chalicians:</b>               | <b>7:45 am</b>  | Jason Cutshall<br>Sharon Hayden                    |
|                                  | <b>9:00 am</b>  | Nancy Carman<br>Cynthia Perley                     |
|                                  | <b>11:15 am</b> | Peg Ruppel<br>Kirk Fritch                          |
| <b>Healing Prayer Ministers:</b> |                 |  |
|                                  | <b>7:45 am</b>  | Meredith Horan                                     |
|                                  | <b>9:00 am</b>  | Major Clemens                                      |
|                                  | <b>11:15 am</b> | Jason Cutshall                                     |
| <b>Acolytes:</b>                 | <b>7:45 am</b>  | Raymond Chin<br>Aidan Douglas                      |
|                                  | <b>9:00 am</b>  | Alfred Waskiye<br>Manny Johnson<br>Nuelle Johnson  |
| <b>Welcome Team:</b>             |                 |  |
|                                  | <b>7:45 am</b>  | Herald Douglas<br>Lisa Murdock                     |
|                                  | <b>9:00 am</b>  | Dorett Sutherland<br>James Black<br>Jonathan Black |
|                                  | <b>11:15 am</b> | Avin Lalmansingh<br>Karl Didavi<br>Clark Didavi    |
| <b>Flower Delivery:</b>          |                 | Adome Baffoe<br>Hawa Clemens                       |
| <b>Altar Guild:</b>              | <b>7:45 am</b>  | Leslie Sanya<br>Wadai Dennis                       |
|                                  | <b>9:00 am</b>  | Nancy Carman<br>Cynthia Perley<br>Liz Lennon       |
|                                  | <b>11:15 am</b> | Laura Shay   |
| <b>Weekly Altar Guild Team:</b>  |                 | 11:15 Team   |
| <b>Eucharistic Visitors:</b>     |                 | Randy Lord-Wilkinson                               |
| <b>Song Leader</b>               | <b>11:15 am</b> | Sue Snay   |
| <b>Hospitality Angels</b>        | <b>7:45 am</b>  | Yvonne Lartey                                      |
|                                  | <b>9:00 am</b>  | Nathalie Scott                                     |
|                                  | <b>11:15 am</b> | Rose Buck  |

