

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Fourth Sunday of Advent THE BANQUET · December 22, 2019 · 10 am

THE COLLECT

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.**

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
 shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
 stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, *
 how long will you be angered
 despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

RECEIVING COMMUNION

The Church believes that in Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ is given to God's people and received by faith. All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome here and invited either to participate in Communion or to receive a blessing. To receive the bread, please hold your hands out in front of you. To receive the wine, help guide the chalice to your lips. If you prefer, you may dip the bread in the wine and then place it in your mouth. If you do not wish to receive the bread and the wine, you are invited to come forward, cross your hands across your chest, and receive a blessing. **Gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.**

COMMISSIONING OF LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR

Celebrant In the name of God and on behalf of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go 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, one cup.**

IN THANKSGIVING & MEMORY

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THOSE CELEBRATING:

Birthdays in the next week: Naomi Gerwin, Doug Zemke, Jule Schulhoff, Catherine Leopard, Elisa Timmerman, Sam Harris, Natalie Park, Winkie Upson, Holly Hankinson, Tim Webb, Bill Montgomery, Davida Gable, Krista DeVaul, Dick Adams, Kate Burroughs.

Anniversaries in the coming week: Jo & Alan Henning, Becky & Tom Harmon, Mary & Ron Heinlen, Jana Riess & Phil Smith, Jr.

The **GREENS** that beautify our worship spaces are given to the glory of God in loving memory of JoAnn Black by Stephanie Hughes, Magen & Christian and in thanksgiving for Leslie Martin's birthday by Carolyn and Kevin Martin.

During the season of Advent, the Redeemer flower guild offers arrangements made exclusively of greens. Thus, we focus on the eternal nature of the evergreens on our Advent Wreath: a circular and illuminated symbol of unending life which gives hope to us in times of darkness.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Celebrant	The Rev. Melanie W. J. Slane
Preacher	The Rev. Mitchell Bojarski
Acolytes	Luke Leopard
Sacristan	Mark Bass
Lector	Julie Anne Baur
Psalmist	Maria Cole
Chalichists	Julie Anne Baur, Kelli Wisecup
Intercessor	Kelli Wisecup
Ushers	Hollis Bass, Mark Bass
Greeters	Pattie Kovach, Kathy Krug, Louisa Adams
Bankers	Polly Culp, Chris Gorz, Betsy Schram (alt.)
Bread Guild	Carol Hesser, H. Paul Callard , Brian Babb
Flower Guild	Kathe Kissel, Christine Bennett, Marcia Shortt, Susan Wilkening
Altar Guild	Kelli Wisecup, Nip Becker, Katy Mallon, Jenny Gale, Kathe Kissel
Children's Liturgy	Tommy Kirk, Brad Gough

