

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Fourth Sunday of Advent • Rite I Holy Eucharist • December 22, 2019 • 8 am

Our service begins on page 323 in the blue Book of Common Prayer.

THE COLLECT

We beseech thee, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, 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 SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant As we eagerly await the coming of our Lord and Savior who brings light into our weary world, we turn to you, O God, with our concerns and thanksgivings, saying:
Comfort your people, O God.

Following each petition, the people respond

Let your light shine in our hearts.

The Celebrant concludes:

Comfort, comfort your people, O God. Cause a new light to shine in our hearts, and keep us in hopeful expectation that you will make yourself known to us in small and generous ways as we await the coming of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Celebrant & Preacher

The Rev. Philip DeVaul

Deacon

The Rev. Gary Lubin

Lector

Sarah-Theresa Y. Murakami

Lay Reader

Mark Sesler

Intercessor

Megan Feichtner

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

