



## ADVENT I

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Raleigh, NC  
November 28, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

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### THE GATHERING

The people gather. First gong, enter into silence. Second gong, please stand.

#### Opening (Prepare Ye)

*A single Cantor chants the opening Versicle 3X and the congregation responds as the Altar Party gathers near the Advent Wreath*

Cantor        Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord  
People        ***Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord***

Presider        Jesus said, 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

People        **Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.**

#### The Lighting of the Advent Wreath—Theme: Hope (Time to Go Home)

*The appointed leaders approach the Advent Wreath and begin with the following:*

Reader        We have endured these past few years and know that there is more to face before us. We don't know if we have the strength to withstand what might be around the next corner. And we wonder who will stand with us, who will have our back, who will occupy our corner.

People        **Who is with us? That is what we begin to wonder these days. Who will light our way and chart our course? Who is on our side, who will welcome us home again?**

Reader        Home. The prophet Jeremiah speaks of a branch that will be raised. Jesus spoke of a Son of Man that will descend. Both point to a hope. A hope that calls us home. Our true home,

where we're welcomed and loved and included. Where there is justice and equality and peace. It's time, this Advent season, time to go home.

(The first candle on the Advent wreath is lit)

Reader We light this candle, as a sign of our hope, our strong hope that there is a way to go home.

People **To the home in Christ, and it starts with us, and it starts here, and it starts now. It's time to go home.** (Source: adapted, Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2021, Derek Weber)

### Acclamation

Presider Blessed is our God, now and forever, unto the ages of ages.

People **Amen! Glory to God! Glory to God!**

### Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 122

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you;  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.  
Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

**Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.**

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.  
Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

**Gracious and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**

He guides the humble in doing right  
and teaches his way to the lowly.

**All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

### 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And

may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. **Thanks be to God.**

**+ The Holy Gospel** Luke 21:25-36

The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

**The Homily** A marked period of silence follows the Homily.

**The Nicene Creed**

The Book of Common Prayer, 358

**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 People

*As the church worldwide celebrates the beginning of a new church year, let us turn our minds and hearts to the larger community of which we are a part, saying: Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us mercy.*

For all peoples of every race, nation and for all the churches of the world: Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Protestant, Pentecostal and Evangelical. May your love so embrace us all, that its power overcomes our conflicts, our divisions, and our fears. Quicken us to our true nature as your children that we may love one another. Hear our prayer, O Lord. **Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us mercy.**

For those who live in fear and confusion: Whether they be stateless people in refugee camps, or settled people hidden beyond fences, give to the vulnerable strength, and to the secure vulnerability, that our human compassion for one another may end injustice and give our societies a human face. Hear our prayer, O Lord. **Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us mercy.**

For this community, especially for those who suffer including, **Rudolph McEwan, Ryoko Roberts, Beth Plumeri, Leah Underwood, Becky Toole, David Robbins, Sarah Robbins, Valerie Aguirre, Vickie LoMonte, Judy Wray, David Myher, Elayne Karickoff, Ruth Mufandaedza, Lee Witcher, Audrey Witcher, Deanna Hill, Sophia Vaughan Morning, Mary Mainwaring, Katie Critcher, Dave Bowman, Denise Davis, Carmen Reeve, James Barber, Celia Nail, Betty Johnson, William Nail, Ginny Barber, Janice Fowlkes, Harriet Banner, Susan Tobie, Hugh Stohler and Rpaal Smith.** We pray for the emotionally and physically ill, for those struggling in addiction and those who are lost. May we all, out of our own suffering, give comfort and support. Hear our prayer, O Lord. **Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us mercy.**

For the larger community around us, especially for the newborn children, the homeless, and the imprisoned: May we create a world where shelter, food and medical care are available for all and where the law protects people for a better chance and better choices. Hear our prayer, O Lord. **Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us mercy.**

For Ron Aycock (30<sup>th</sup>) who celebrates a birthday this week. Hear our prayer, O Lord. **Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us mercy.**

*[Here other intercessions may be offered.]*

For those who have died violent deaths rooted in racism, misogyny and homophobia and for those who mourn them. Hear our prayer, O Lord. **Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us mercy.**

For those who have died from COVID-19 and for those who mourn them. Hear our prayer, O Lord. **Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us mercy.**

For Sister Marie Elizabeth Alspaugh, sister of Alice Both and Athena Gallins, mother of Penny Gallins and for all who have died in the peace of Christ. Hear our prayer, O Lord. **Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us mercy.**

Deacon        We pray for the forgiveness of our sins; for the times we have failed to love, for the moments when we didn't speak out against injustice and for our complicitness in oppressive and dehumanizing systems. Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us mercy.

The People may kneel or bow.

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

The Presider offers the absolution

### **The Exchange of Peace**

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Gathering of Tithes and Offerings**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

Presider: All things come from you, O God.

People: **And of your own have we given you.**

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.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon,

and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

***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.***

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with [and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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**

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread also known as 'The Fraction'.

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

Please remain masked during the distribution of Communion. You may wish to hold your communion bread/wafer until the end of distribution, so we may all commune together.

## Prayer after Communion

The people stand.

**Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

When communion is being carried from the altar to those who are home bound.

Presider      The bread which we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

People      **Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.**

*[N.]*, In the name of God and of this congregation, bear these gifts to those who are bound; share the Lord and bless His name.

**Amen.**

## THE SENDING

### The Advent Blessing

The people stand.

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son, and the only Spirit, be upon you and remain with you fore ever. **Amen.**

### Dismissal

Deacon      Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.

People      **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**The Rev. Tyrone Fowlkes, Presider**



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