

*St. Mark's Episcopal Church*

*Second Sunday of Advent*

*December 6, 2020 10:00 am*

## Holy Eucharist Rite II

# THE WORD OF GOD

### Hymn 76

### On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

1. On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake, and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within;  
And let each heart prepare a home  
Where such a mighty Guest may come.

3. For Thou art our Salvation, Lord,  
Our refuge, and our great reward.  
Without Thy grace we waste away,  
Like flowers that wither and decay.

4. To heal the sick stretch out Thine hand,  
And bid the fallen sinner stand;  
Shine forth, and let Thy light restore  
Earth's own true loveliness once more.

5. All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
Whose advent doth Thy people free,  
Whom, with the Father, we adore,  
And Holy Spirit, forevermore.

### Advent 2

The second week of Advent we remember the gift of Peace we have in Christ.

Let us pray-

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of peace you give us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by working for Christ's peace to take root in our world. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord .All: Amen.

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

People *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*

### The 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**

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **The Lessons**

#### **Isaiah 40:1-11**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our

God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry? All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord

People *Thanks be to God*

#### **Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

1 You have been gracious to your land, O God, \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.

8 I will listen to what you are saying, \*  
for you are speaking peace to your faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to you.

9 Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, \*  
that your glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 You, O God, will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before you, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.

## 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord  
People *Thanks be to God*

## Hymn 65

Prepare the way, O Zion,  
your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley

## Prepare the way, O Zion

a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory,  
foretold in sacred story.

*Refrain* Oh blest is Christ that came  
in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion;  
he comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom,  
and justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding,  
for grace and joy abounding. *Refrain*

Fling wide your gates, O Zion;  
your Savior's rule embrace.  
His tidings of salvation  
proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow before him,  
their voices will adore him. *Refrain*

The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ according  
to Mark.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ*

## Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

### **The Sermon**

**The Rev. Nancy L. Threadgill**

Have you seen the new commercial from AT&T? A man comes in and he is informed of a new deal that is available to new customers and existing customers. He quickly calls his mom about it only it turns out it was the wrong number. But because of his call that person is running right down to get the new deal. Then the AT&T spokesperson turns to the camera and says that is how people learned about things before commercials (pause) word of mouth.

Word of mouth, that is how people learned about John the Baptist who appeared in the wilderness looking like a wild man but preaching about forgiveness of sins through baptism with water. He was insistent that people repent of their sins and be baptized by immersion in the Jordan River in order to lead new, clean lives. John didn't have the media following him around, reporting his every move and his every word as we have today. It would take days, weeks, months for others to learn about him and his teachings instead of instantaneous communication. And yet, we are told that people from the Judean countryside and from Jerusalem were coming out to see him, hear him and be baptized by him. They were fascinated by this man and his message. They were yearning for ways to change their lives for the better.

Actually, if you think about it, God had an amazing plan devised. Six months before Jesus was conceived, his cousin John was born and, when old enough, was told how he would pave the way for the Messiah. John took this job very seriously and it worked. By the time Jesus started his ministry, people knew there was someone else coming who may be able to have a bigger influence in their lives than John so they anticipated his arrival.

That is what Advent is all about – the anticipation of the birth of the Messiah. Not only do we anticipate the birth we are asked to prepare for it. We are asked to be ready to let Christ into our lives in order to have this world become a better place. We are asked to read scripture, pray, meditate, come to church, love God and love our neighbor.

I'm sure the people of John's time and place thought that things were terrible and that help was needed to bring about change in the way people lived and eliminate poverty, famine, sickness, wars, and discrimination just as we think of what's happening in our world today.

We need Christ more than ever. We need the hope that Christ brings for ourselves and for the world. We need this Advent. Along with the anticipation of the vaccines for Covid-19, the better treatments for the virus, and the possibility of life returning to "normal", we need the anticipation of the birth of the Messiah to give us the hope that we, God's people, will be able to bring about the changes needed for this to be a world where all people can live in peace and harmony, with Christ's help, of course. Amen

### **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 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.

## **The Prayers of the People**

### **Form V**

Deacon or other leader

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth  
and love, and be found without fault at the day of your  
coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Here and after every petition the People respond

*Lord, have mercy.*

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Dorsey, our own Bishop(s),  
for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people  
of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our  
divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the  
Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may  
preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O  
Lord.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost  
their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we  
pray to you, O Lord.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and  
forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray  
to you, O Lord.

For those in positions of public trust especially Donald, our President,  
Joe, our President-elect, and Tom, our Goovernor, that they may serve  
justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray  
to you, O Lord.

For all who live and work in this community of Johnstown, we pray  
to you, O Lord.

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use  
of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from  
poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

For this congregation [for those who are present in the church, for those joining us online and for those who are absent], that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

For \_\_\_\_\_, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of [the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, (*blessed N.*) and] all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.  
*To you, O Lord our God.*

Silence

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## **Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

*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 Bishop, when present, or the Priest, 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**

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

# The Holy Communion

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

## Hymn 67

### Comfort, comfort ye my people

Comfort, comfort ye My people,  
Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
Mourning 'neath their sorrow's load;  
Speak ye to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover,  
And her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth,  
In the desert far and near,  
Calling us to new repentance,  
Since the kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way!  
Let the valleys rise to meet him,  
And the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked,  
Make the rougher places plain:  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits his holy reign,  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now o'er the earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That the word is never broken.

## Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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:

Celebrant and People

*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.*

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

*We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;*

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him,

being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

And now, as our Savior As our Savior Christ  
Christ has taught us, has taught us,  
we are bold to say, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

<i>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.</i>	<i>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.</i>
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**The Breaking of the Bread**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

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

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

For those unable or unwilling to receive the physical Communion at this time please pray the following with me:

*My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.*

**Communion Hymn 343      Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless**

1 Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless  
Thy chosen pilgrim flock  
With manna in the wilderness,  
With water from the rock.

2 We would not live by bread alone,  
But by thy word of grace,  
In strength of which we travel on  
To our abiding place.

3 Be known to us in breaking bread,  
But do not then depart;  
Savior, abide with us, and spread  
Thy table in our heart.

4 Lord, sup with us in love divine:  
Thy body and thy blood,  
That living bread, that heavenly wine,  
Be our immortal food.

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

*Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God and of God's son Jesus Christ, our Lord, and the blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. Amen.

**Hymn Levas 14**

**Soon and very soon**

Verse 1

Soon and very soon We are going to see the King  
Soon and very soon We are going to see the King  
Soon and very soon We are going to see the King  
Hallelujah hallelujah We're going to see the King

Verse 2

No more crying there We are going to see the King  
No more crying there We are going to see the King  
No more crying there We are going to see the King  
Hallelujah hallelujah We're going to see the King

Verse 3

No more dying there We are going to see the King  
No more dying there We are going to see the King  
No more dying there We are going to see the King  
Hallelujah hallelujah We're going to see the King  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

Verse 4

Soon and very soon We are going to see the King  
Soon and very soon We are going to see the King  
Soon and very soon We are going to see the King  
Hallelujah hallelujah We're going to see the King  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People *Thanks be to God.*

From *Book of Common Prayer 1979*  
*Psalm from the Saint Helena Breviary*

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**

Church of the Advent, Jeannette  
and  
The Rev. Martin Wright

**Altar Flowers Given To the Greater Glory of God**

In Loving Memory of  
My Parents  
Don & Liz Hysong  
With Love, Pam

In Honor of the Second Birthday of  
Our Grandson  
Bradley Branch Kintner  
December 8, 2018  
From Lisa & Jim Loncella

**Altar Candles Given to the Greater Glory of God**

In Loving Memory of  
Ed Stavas  
From Wife, Martha

**Next Week's Readings**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Psalm 126  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

*Sharing Christ's love unconditionally through  
transformational worship and service.*

