



# The Fourth Sunday of Advent

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church

December 20, 2020

## The Word of God

### Opening Hymn

**Celebrant** Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**People** And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

### Collect for Purity

**Celebrant** 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.*

### Collect of the Day

**Celebrant** The Lord be with you.  
**People** And also with you.  
**Celebrant** 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.*

### The First Reading

*2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16*

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*After the Reading, the Reader says* The Word of the Lord

**People**

**Thanks be to God**

## **Canticle**

*Canticle 15*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his  
Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

## The Second Reading

*Romans 16:25-27*

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

*After the Reading, the Reader says* The Word of the Lord

**People**      **Thanks be to God**

## The Gospel Reading

*Luke 1:26-38*

*Before proclaiming the Gospel, the Priest says*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People**      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

*After the Gospel, the Priest says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**People**      **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon

### The Nicene Creed

**All** 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 worshipped 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 IV

*After each bidding, you may offer your own prayers aloud.*

**Leader** Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

**All** Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

**Leader** Guide the people of this land, of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

**All** Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

**Leader** Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

**All** Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

**Leader** Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

**All** Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

**Leader** Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

**All** Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

**Leader** We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

**All** Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*A concluding prayer is said by the priest*

*Adapted from the BCP*

## **Confession and Absolution**

**Celebrant** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**All** 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.

**Celebrant** 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 Lord's Prayer**

**All** 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.

## **Announcements**

**Blessing**

**Dismissal**

## Announcements

### Birthdays this month

1st: Lincoln Randell  
 2nd: Susan Schug  
 6th: Janet Whetzel  
 14th: Becky Supercinski  
 19th: Diana Duesterhoft  
 21st: Ron Raif  
 26th: Jeff Richardson  
 27th: Don King  
 30th: Sunni Spraggins  
 31st: John Dawes

### Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24th, 6:00 PM

### Longview Community Ministries

They are the principal organization in Longview that helps people with all sorts of emergency services, including food. They have asked us to help by donating canned fruits and vegetables during this season when food bank donations are down, and the need for services has increased. We will have a basket in the Narthex for ongoing donations. Please donate if you are able.

### Ornament Exchange

**TODAY Sunday, December 20th**, Bring a wrapped ornament, costing no more than \$5.00. Place on the table in the Narthex. Following the service, please take one on your way out. Bring as many as you want, but only as many as you bring. Please be aware we cannot socialize, but we can exchange the ornaments. Options: Include a note, poem, or verse inside, expressing how much the Christmas season means to you and hopes for the recipient.

### Poinsettia Dedications

**TODAY** is the last Sunday to get your dedications turned in. If you would like to provide a Poinsettia for the Sanctuary, please fill out the form located in the narthex and place in the offering plate. Suggested donation: \$20.00 per Poinsettia. Please indicate "Poinsettia" on your check.

## This Sunday's Servers

**Danny's Team:** Mary Lynn Dawes  
**Greeter:** David Brown  
**Lector:** David Brown  
**Ushers:** Jerry Ritchie  
**Vestry People:** Roxanne Brink, Andrew Sanders  
**Worship Tech:** Jessica Sanders

## Prayer Requests

### Healing For:

- Ray
- Devin
- Meg
- Aaron & Roni
- Jo Lee
- Lorraine
- Pete & Margie

To submit a prayer request, fill out the back of the information sheet in the pew and place it in the offering. Or, send an email with your request to: [prayer@smaalongview.org](mailto:prayer@smaalongview.org)

**\*\* Emailed prayer requests are received by all who've signed up for the SMAA prayer chain. This community of prayer is committed to holding up our needs and thanksgivings to God whenever they are shared. TO JOIN IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY, JUST SEND A REQUEST TO SMAA@SMAALONGVIEW.ORG ASKING TO BE A PART OF THE PRAYER CHAIN. \*\***

## Stewardship Update

DATE	GIVING	BUDGET	ABOVE/BELOW
11/22/20	\$5,001	\$3,065	\$1,936
11/29/20	\$2,361	\$3,065	-\$704
12/06/20	\$1,216	\$3,065	-\$1,849
12/13/20	\$1,791	\$3,065	-\$1,274
YTD TOTALS	\$122,599	\$153,241	-\$30,643

## Next Sunday's Servers (12/27)

**Danny's Team:** Susan Kuhlman  
**Greeter:** Amy Brown  
**Lector:** Javier Glave  
**Ushers:** David Brown  
**Vestry People:** Roxanne Brink, Samantha Rauch  
**Worship Tech:** Gabriel Duncalfe

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