

Advent Service of Lament December 6, 2020

Silence may be kept

Officiant O Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
People **Let the whole earth tremble before him.**

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says to the people

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

**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 alone 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 Invitatory and Psalter

All Stand

Officiant O God make speed to save us.
People **O Lord make haste to help us.**

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

The Psalm

51:1-18 *Miserere mei, Deus*

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.**

3 For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.

**4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.**

5 And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.

**6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly

**8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

**10 Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.**

11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.

**12 Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

13 Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

**14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.**

15 Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness O God of my salvation.

**16 Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

**18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was I the beginning, is now and will be forever.

The Lessons

The First Lesson *2 Samuel 11:26-12:10b*

²⁶ When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. ²⁷ When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD, **12** ¹ and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, “There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had very many flocks and herds; ³ but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴ Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man’s lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.” ⁵ Then David’s anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; ⁶ he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.”

⁷ Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; ⁸ I gave you your master’s house, and your master’s wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. ⁹ Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰ Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me.

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

The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

Luke 1:46-55

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.

¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham.^[a] The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side.^[b] ²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

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

Homily The Rev. Canon Eric McIntosh

Advent Litany

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the prophets whom God sent to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. By God’s grace, may our minds and hearts be opened to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may with joy greet Jesus Christ our King and Redeemer.

Let us pray:

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High: teach us the way of repentance.
You reach across the world: help us to see all your children,
You mightily and sweetly order all things: save us from the chaos of our pride.

O Emmanuel, God-With-Us,
Make us one with you.

O Adonai, leader of the Household of God: lead us to the Child Christ.
You appeared to Moses in a flame of fire: cleanse us from hatred and fear.
You gave the Law on Sinai: write your law upon our hearts.

O Emmanuel, God-With-Us,
Make us one with you.

O Root of Jesse, you stand as a sign to all people: show us the way to Life.
You shut the mouths of kings: give us words of grace and truth.
You hear the prayers of the nations: deliver the poor who call upon you.

O Emmanuel, God-With-Us,
Make us one with you.

O Key of David, you open that none may shut: open our hearts to Christ the King.
You shut that none may open: bind our arrogance and our greed.
You lead the prisoners out of prison: bring us out of the shadow of death.

O Emmanuel, God-With-Us,
Make us one with you.

O Morning Star, endless radiance: dispel the darkness of our sin.
You are the Sun of Righteousness: shine upon our path.
Eternal splendor, Lamp of Heaven: make us burn as lights in the world.

O Emmanuel, God-With-Us,
Make us one with you.

O King of the Nations, and their desire: govern our minds with your love.
Keystone joining our yearning to your rule: give us passion for your justice.
Savior of humankind: save us whom you made of clay.

O Emmanuel, God-With-Us,
Make us one with you.
Hope of the nations,
Make us one with one another.
Savior of the World,
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Lord, have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

Officiant and People
**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.**

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer;
People And let our cry come to you.
Officiant Let us pray

Collect for Social Justice

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Collect for Times of Conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen. *Ephesians 3:20, 21*