



February 24, 2021

5:00 PM ~ Evening Prayer ~ *Rite II*

St. Matthias the Apostle

Welcome to Advent Episcopal Church, offering worship of The Episcopal Church to the Northwest Valley. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this service of worship is live streamed through the Advent Facebook page. Tonight's service follows Evening Prayer according to the *Book of Common Prayer* with a brief homily. Hymn numbers are found in the *Hymnal 1982*; hymn numbers preceded by the letter "L" are found in *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*.

Thank you for joining us for worship this evening, and again: Welcome to Advent!

Evening Prayer

PRELUDE

WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING VERSES *BCP, 115, 116*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

Seek the One who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning, and darkens the day into night; who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth: that one is The Lord. *Amos 5:8*

Confession of Sin *Led by the Officiant* *BCP, 116*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together,

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 Priest 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 *BCP, 117*

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 for ever. Amen.

Hymn 25 **O GRACIOUS LIGHT** *Phos hilaron*

- 1 O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father's glory shone. Immortal, holy, blest is he, and blest are you, his holy Son.
- 2 Now sunset comes, but light shines forth, the lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God who dwells in the eternal light.
- 3 Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God, Life-giving Lord; wherefore you are through all the earth and in the highest heaven adored.

The appointed psalm is said in unison, led by the lector.

Psalm 15 *Domine, quis habitabit?*

- ¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? * who may abide upon your holy hill?
- ² Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, * who speaks the truth from his heart.
- ³ There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; * he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- ⁴ In his sight the wicked is rejected, * but he honors those who fear the LORD.
- ⁵ He has sworn to do no wrong * and does not take back his word.
- ⁶ He does not give his money in hope of gain, * nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

⁷ Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

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 Lessons

Acts 1:15-26

Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus-- for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his homestead become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it'; and 'Let another take his position of overseer.'

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us-- one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

H 438

THE SONG OF MARY

Magnificat

- 1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.
- 2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age the same;
his holy Name—the Lord, the Mighty One.
- 3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

- 4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

A reading from the Gospel according to John [15:1,6-16]

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Homily

The Litany of Healing

Officiant Let us name before God those for whom we wish to pray. *A moment of silence is observed*

After each bidding, the People respond,

"Hear and have mercy."

The officiant adds an appropriate concluding collect.

The Apostles' Creed

BCP, 120

Officiant and People together

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again,
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

BCP, 121

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

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.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

SUFFRAGES B

BCP, 122

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear,
and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Saint Mathias, and all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, who in the place of Judas chose your faithful servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve: Grant that your Church, being delivered from false apostles, may always be guided and governed by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Protection

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A Collect for Mission

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn 653

OFFICE HYMN

- 1 Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.
- 2 In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee.
- 3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity
interpreted by love!

- 4 Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.
- 5 Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

Your intercessions and thanksgivings are invited.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

BCP, 125

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth
your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

The officiant alone says

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with
one accord to make our common supplication to you;
and you have promised through your well-beloved Son
that when two or three are gathered together in his
Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O
Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us;
granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in
the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Then may be said

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

The Officiant may then conclude with the following

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
(✠) and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all
evermore. Amen. *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Postlude



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