



ST. THOMAS HUNTSVILLE, AL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A church that is welcoming and inclusive of all.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2008

8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Services

The Holy Eucharist Rite Two The Word of God

VOLUNTARY "The Angelic Salutation"

Arcadelt/Liszt

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE

Reader Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

(The fourth purple candle is lit by a family member)

Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HYMN IN PROCESSION "Come, thou long-expected Jesus"

Hymnal 66

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

HYMN OF PRAISE "O come, O come Emmanuel" verses 7, 8

Hymnal 56

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.

FIRST LESSON 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now 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

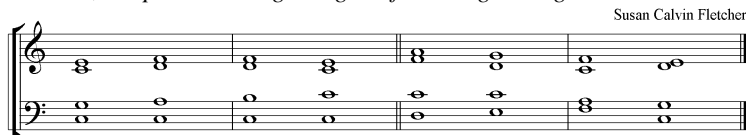
up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not 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.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

At 8:00, the psalm is read responsively, at the direction of the reader.

At 10:30, the psalm is sung using the following setting:



GRADUAL CANTICLE 15 - THE SONG OF MARY MAGNIFICAT

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 gener`ation.

He has shown the strength of his `arm, *

he has scattered the proud in their con`ceit.

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.

SECOND LESSON (10:30 AM): 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.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE (10:30 AM): "The angel Gabriel from heaven came"

Hymnal 265

THE GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

Deacon 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.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

The Rev. W. Dexter Bender

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

BCP 389

Celebrant

Prayers from Young People using Felt Board Symbols

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 Katharine our Presiding Bishop, for Henry and Kee our own Bishops,
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 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, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and
freedom of every person, 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, 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 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 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

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect, or the following Doxology

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

The Deacon says Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Ministers 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 PEACE

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

8:00 AM "Lo, How a Rose"

Johannes Brahms

10:30 AM "Mater Ora Fillium"

Wood/Oxley

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant 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 him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant 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:

SANCTUS

S-125

The people stand or kneel.

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 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 Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM (10:30 AM)

Hymnal S-155

COMMUNION HYMNS (10:30 AM) (please join the choir in singing)

“Sing we of the blessed mother”

Hymnal 278 (tune 336)

“Alleluia, He Is Coming”

I looked up and I saw my Lord a-coming down the road.

Refrain: Alleluia, he is coming; Alleluia, he is here.

I looked up and I saw my Lord a-weeping for my sins. *Refrain*

I looked up and I saw my Lord a-dying on the cross. *Refrain*

I looked up and I saw my Lord arising from the grave. *Refrain*

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

HYMN IN PROCESSION

8:00 AM “Blest is the King whose coming”

Hymnal 74

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

8:00 AM “Fantasy on ‘Lo, How a Rose”

James Woodman

HYMN IN PROCESSION

10:30 AM “Prepare Ye The Way of the Lord”
(Cantor then choir and congregation)

Stephen Schwartz

*The Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley, Jr. Bishop
The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan, Bishop Suffragan
The Rev. W. Dexter Bender, Interim Rector
The Rev. Carl C. Bright, Associate Interim Rector
The Rev. Dave Drachlis, Deacon
Susan Fletcher, Music Director*