

The Lessons

First Reading: *Malachi 3:1-4*

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Malachi

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

Luke 1:68-79 *All sing refrain after each stanza.* BCP 92

Refrain: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us. **Refrain**

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. **Refrain**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins. **Refrain**

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. **Refrain**

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. **Refrain**

Second Reading: *Philippians 1:3-11*

Reader: A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

Sequence Hymn *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* *Savior of the nations, come! vs. 1-2* Hymnal 54

The Holy Gospel: *Luke 3:1-6*

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

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. *People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sequence Hymn *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* *Savior of the nations, come! vs. 3-4* Hymnal 54

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed BCP 358

**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 IV BCP 388

The leader and people pray responsively.

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.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

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

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

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.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

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.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

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.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

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.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant will add a concluding collect.

Confession of Sin BCP 360

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

**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 Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion

The Offertory

Anthem *Prepare the Way of the Lord* W. Rowan
The Cathedral Choir (b. 1951)

At the Presentation *The Doxology* *Old 100th*
America vs. 4 Hymnal 717

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer A* BCP 361

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.**

The Celebrant continues: 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 Hymnal S-130

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People: **Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 BCP 364

**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

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant: 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.

Music at Communion

Instrumental	<i>Veni, Veni, Emmanuel</i>	G. Edmundson (1892-1971)
	Christopher W. Powell, organist	
Hymn	<i>Comfort, comfort ye my people</i>	<i>Psalm 42</i> Hymnal 67
		BCP 365

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

Children’s Sunday School Procession

Recessional	<i>Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding</i>	<i>Merton</i> Hymnal 59
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Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude	<i>Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland</i>	J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
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Please join us after the service for a time of hospitality in the Chapter House.

Ministers For Today

Celebrant and Preacher Dean Gibson
Assisting..... Canon Wagner
First Reading Margaret Thigpen
Second Reading Perri McKay
Intercessor..... Carolyn Eichold
Chalice Bearers Ginny Behlen, Bradley Forster
Oblationers Stacy Wellborn, Johnny Gwin
Crucifers..... Jordan Chow, Walt Hamil
Acolytes Lawson Hamil, Carson Russell, Yates Grehan
 Charlie Ramo, Juliana Ramo
Children’s Chapel Kim Ellis, Elinor Gibson
Altar Guild..... Barbara Archer, Jennifer Grehan, Donna Moree,
 M. J. Ramo, Martha Ann Stafford
Flower Guild Perrin Drew, Judy Henson
Ushers John Davidson, Ken McElhaney, Len Ramo,
 Bill Rodgers, Bill Skinner, Wythe Whiting
Hospitality Team Kay Whiting, Rosemarie McClure, Louise McClure,
 Lucy Lyons, Lynn Yankie, Homer McClure



Christ Church Cathedral

Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

The Right Reverend J. Russell Kendrick, *Bishop*

The Very Reverend Beverly Findley Gibson, Ph.D., *Dean and Rector*

The Reverend Canon Daniel Andrew Wagner, *Canon Pastor*

Christopher William Powell, *Organist and Choirmaster*



Mobile, Alabama

Second Sunday of Advent
 December 6, 2015

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two Ten o’clock in the morning

We invite you to participate in the worship of God. Our service is the Holy Eucharist: Rite Two in The Book of Common Prayer. For ease of use, this leaflet contains the congregational portions of the liturgy and service music. Congregational responses are printed in bold. Hymn numbers refer to The Hymnal 1982. Page numbers refer to the Prayer Book for those wishing to use it. Lesson and Gospel texts are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.



We extend a warm welcome to all visitors. A nursery is available.

*A gentle reminder: please **turn off** all wireless devices before the service begins.*

Sound enhancement receivers for the hearing impaired are available. Please see an usher.

Prelude	<i>Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland</i>	J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
Introit	<i>People of Zion, look up!</i> The Cathedral Choir	C. W. Powell (b. 1990)

The Word of God

Processional Hymn	<i>On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry</i>	<i>Winchester New</i> Hymnal 76
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Lighting of the Advent Wreath.

Children’s Chapel (*Ages 3 to Grade 3*) *Children process with the leader to the Chapel and return at the peace.*

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

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity	BCP 355
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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.**

Trisagion	Hymnal S-102
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**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
 Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.
 Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
 Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.
 Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
 Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

The Collect of the Day	BCP 211
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Celebrant: 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.**