



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY
BURNET, TEXAS



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 13, 2020

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Hymn 462 York

1 Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

2 Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

3 Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain:
let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.

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

Celebrant
Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Celebrant Lord, have mercy upon us.
People Christ, have mercy upon us.
Celebrant Lord, have mercy upon us.
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah. (61:1-4,8-11)

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Magnificat (*The Song of Mary, 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.*

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. (5.16-24)

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 65 *Bereden väg för Herran*

1 Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

2 He brings God's rule, O Zion, he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John. (1:6-8,19-28)

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do

you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion, your Savior’s rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.
Oh blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name.

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The Sermon

The Reverend Michael Long

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.

Prayers of the People

The person appointed says

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Leader Lord, in thy mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Hector, and Kai, our bishops; Michael, our priest; and Jeannie our missionary, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

Leader Lord, in thy mercy

People Hear our prayer.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

Leader Lord, in thy mercy
People Hear our prayer.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald, our President, and Joseph, our President-elect, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Leader Lord, in thy mercy
People Hear our prayer.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

Leader Lord, in thy mercy
People Hear our prayer.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially:

John	Ann	Allan	Kenyon	
Nancy	James	Sarah	Ginny	Patty
Morgan	Victoria	Lynne	Lindsey	Jack
Christian	Carol	Ellie	Glenda	Ed /
Bailey family	Judy	Tom	Tyler	Bob
Dale	Merle	Shelly	Greg	Karen
Bonnie & Ed	Leslie	June	Miranda	Gayle
Sherrill	Mollie	Katelyn	Rashunda	RG
Bobbie	George	Dianne	Carolyn	Robyn
Melissa	Jackie	Elizabeth	Donna	Carol
Shereese	Degeyter family	Ravikiran	Seaquist family	Imre
Aubree	Joelle	Ravikiran	Women in the Hutto facility	

And with these thy servants who serve in the military

Brian	James	Kevin	Jarrold	Jonathan
Eric	Trever	Chris	Bryan	All in harm's way

Leader Lord, in thy mercy
People Hear our prayer.

And with all who travel this week.

And with all who mourn, especially the Mather family, the Yarborough family, César and Mark and César's family, the Hamilton and Weathers families, the Lejeune family, the Shelburn family, and the families of all those who have died from the coronavirus.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear especially John Mather, Kathrine Yarborough, Luis Arreaza, JB Hamilton, Jeremy Lejeune, Randy Shelburn, and all who have died from the coronavirus, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Leader Lord, in thy mercy

People Hear our prayer.

We pray in thanksgiving with those celebrating their birthdays this week: Carol Weathers (12/13), Chance Milanovich (12/14), Mark Hutson (12/18), and Nancy Heuss (12/19).

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. *Amen.*

The Priest says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Priest may then say following sentence, first saying
Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

The Priest then says
And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Priest
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 Peace

The Celebrant says to the people
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And with thy spirit.

The Priest gives the blessing
The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Hymn 539 Tidings

1 O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling,
to tell to all the world that God is Light;
that he who made all nations is not willing
one soul should fail to know his love and might.

[Refrain:

Publish glad tidings: tidings of peace, tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.]

2 Proclaim to every people, tongue, and nation
that God, in whom they live and move, is Love;
tell how he stooped to save his lost creation,
and died on earth that all might live above. (Refrain)

3 Send heralds forth to bear the message glorious;
give of thy wealth to speed them on their way;
pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious
till God shall bring his kingdom's joyful day. (Refrain)

4 He comes again! O Zion, ere thou meet him,
make known to every heart his saving grace;
let none whom he hath ransomed fail to greet him,
through thy neglect, unfit to see his face. (Refrain)

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Dismissal	<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us bless the Lord.
	<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

- **Layreaders this morning** are Carol and Jim Weathers.
- **LA Care and the Community Kitchen** have ongoing needs. Epiphany maintains the Community Kitchen the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month.
- **Bulletin and E-Star deadlines**—Tuesday, 9 am. Contact Dianne Williams in the parish office with news or updates.
- **All are welcomed to the Bible Study following coffee hour.** We are reading *The Preaching Life* by Barbara Brown Taylor. No preparation is necessary; come join us!