



Calvary Episcopal Church

4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

10:30 A.M. Holy Baptism & Eucharist, Rite Two

Love

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:9,11

THE WORD OF GOD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Introduction: Week Four

On our journey to Christmas, we have lit the candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy on our Advent Wreath. These candles remind us of the hope that Christ will come again, bringing everlasting peace, and joy. This is the fourth Sunday of Advent, so we light the last candle, the candle of Love. Today's candle is lit to draw our hearts to the magnitude of God's love for us that was made manifest in Jesus.

Readers Week Four

The angel Gabriel reassured Mary that "nothing will be impossible with God." The power of love is the power to overcome what we think is impossible in our lives. As we light the candle of Love, we remember that God so loves this world that he sent his only son, Jesus, to save us. We light this candle in honor of those who have shown us how to love even when doing so is not convenient or sensible. We remember those who show us that compassion – unconditional love – is how we are called to live our lives.

Christ connects all the Advent candles. Through him we can find hope, peace, joy, and love. Christ steps down into darkness to bring light to the world. Through Jesus we hold God's love in our hearts. Love was the hope of the saints and the call of the prophets. It was the fire in the belly of the Baptist, the courage of Mother Mary, and the obedience of Joseph. Lamp in the window, beacon on the hill, star in the night sky. These symbols of light point to the One who loves us more than we can imagine.

As we remain seated, let us pray together: ***Father of lights, we light these candles of hope, of peace, of joy, and today of love, to prepare our hearts and lives so that we may again receive the gift of Christ and, through him, salvation. Break into our world and our hearts again. Magnify your love in us until it overflows to our neighbors. Renew our faith to experience again the wonder of your love. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you so that we may shine the light of your compassionate love in this broken world. Come, God of Love, come. Amen.***

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING SONG - I Hear a Sound

*I hear a sound coming from the mountain
I hear it louder each day
I hear a sound coming from the mountain
And it says prepare ye the way*

CHORUS:

*Prepare ye the way
Prepare ye the way
Prepare ye the way
Of the Lord*

*I see the King standing on the mountain
I see Him clearer each day
I see the King standing on the mountain
And He says prepare ye the way*

*I feel God's love flowing from the mountain
I feel it stronger each day
I feel God's love flowing from the mountain
And he says, "Prepare ye the way"*

HOLY BAPTISM

BCP 299

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures forever.

There is one Body and one Spirit;
There is one hope in God's call to us;
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
One God and Father of all.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

THE COLLECT

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Together, let us pray.

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.

THE LESSONS

A READING FROM THE PROPHET MICAH

Micah 5:2-5a

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 15, THE SONG OF MARY *Magnificat* (READ IN UNISON)

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 LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN 490 - I Want To Walk As A Child of the Light

**1. I want to walk as a child of the light
I want to follow Jesus
God set the stars to give light to the world
The Star of my life is Jesus**

REFRAIN:

**In Him there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike
The Lamb is the light of the city of God
Shine in my heart Lord Jesus**

**2. I want to see the brightness of God
I want to look at Jesus
Clear Sun of righteousness shine on my path
And show me the way to the Father**

**3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ
I want to follow Jesus
When we have run with patience the race
We shall know the joy of Jesus**

THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON - Fr. Ralph

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATE

The Celebrant says: The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents and Godparents: I present _____ to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant: Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents: I will, with God's help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the parent and godparents who speak on behalf of the infant.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer ***I renounce them.***

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer ***I renounce them.***

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer ***I renounce them.***

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer ***I do.***

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer ***I do.***

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer ***I do.***

Then the Celebrant asks the following question of the congregation.

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this child in his life in Christ?

We will.

Let us join with this child who is committing himself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

- Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?
People ***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***
- Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People ***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.***
- Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People ***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.***
- Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?
People ***I will, with God's help.***
- Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People ***I will, with God's help.***
- Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People ***I will, with God's help.***
- Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People ***I will, with God's help.***
- Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People ***I will, with God's help.***

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE

Let us now pray for this child who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

- Leader Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader Open his heart to your grace and truth.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader Send him into the world in witness to your love.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that this child who here is cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

_____, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

_____, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

Deacon presents candle lighted from Paschal Candle with these words: Receive the light of Christ.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Let us welcome the newly baptized by saying together.

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We Welcome a New Child of God Today
Jordan Jon Maldonado

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. [*Proper Preface is added*]

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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;

HYMN # S-125

heaven and earth are 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.

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,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

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.

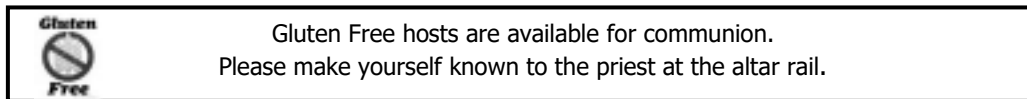
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

***Our Father in Heaven
Hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.***

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

These are 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.



If you have a special prayer need, step into the side chapel after you receive communion, and a member of the Prayer Team will pray with you.

COMMUNION SONG 1 - Creator of the Stars of Night

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <i>Creator of the stars of night</i> | <i>Come oh come</i> |
| <i>Thy people's ever lasting light</i> | <i>Come oh come</i> |
| <i>O Christ redeemer of us all</i> | <i>Come oh come to us</i> |
| <i>We pray You hear us when we call</i> | |

***When this old world drew on toward night
You came but not in splendor bright
Not as a monarch but a child of Mary
Blameless mother mild***

COMMUNION SONG 2 - Emmanuel

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel
His name is called Emmanuel
God with us, revealed in us
His name is called Emmanuel*

COMMUNION SONG 3 - Sunrise

*The sun rises in the east
A new day, it is dawning.
The sun rises in the east
A new day, it is dawning.*

*This is the day the Lord hath made.
Rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day the Lord hath made.
Rejoice and be glad in it.*

*The birds sing alleluia.
The birds sing praise the Lord
The birds sing alleluia.
The birds sing praise the Lord*

*May the light of Christ dawn in you.
May you be born anew.
May the light of Christ dawn in you.
May you be born anew.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

CLOSING SONG - Everlasting God

*Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord*

*You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God
You do not faint
You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles*

*Our God You reign forever
Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer*

THE DISMISSAL

*Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. (these words may differ from time to time)
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.*



The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Wendy and George Doherty in honor of Jordan Maldonado's Baptism

Please Sign Up Online To Donate Altar Flowers
Enhance Our Worship + Thank God + Remember A Loved One
Flower offerings for 2025 will be done **online** at calvaryrichmond.org under
giving/altar flowers or use the QR code found inside of the announcement insert
The cost is \$50, to be paid in advance.

Calvary Worship Service Times
8:00 AM Sunday – Traditional Service
10:30 AM Sunday – Contemporary Service
5:00 PM Sunday – Sunday Night Alive Informal Service

Calvary Staff

The Rev. Ralph B. Morgan, Rector
The Rev. Nancy Wilkes, Deacon

John Brun, Parish Administrator
Anne Scarborough, Newcomer Coordinator
William Soller, Communications/Children's Minister
Suzette Hillis, Administrative Assistant

Kathy Haley, Finance Administrator
Sterling Overshown, Organist/Choir Director
Will Mason, POGS Worship Coordinator
Ross Elkins, SNL Worship Leader
Jose Portillo, Campus Operations

IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY AND NEED TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE, PLEASE CONTACT:

The Rev. Nancy Wilkes
713-818-6323
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or

The Rev. Ralph Morgan
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CALVARY STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

2024 Pledged: \$555,925
2024 Given: \$516,173