



**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 20 , 2020**  
**10A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**



**ST MARK'S**  
Episcopal Church

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**THE RT. REV. LARRY BENFIELD, BISHOP**  
**THE REV. CANON DR. DENNIS CAMPBELL, INTERIM RECTOR**

[www.StMarksJonesboro.org](http://www.StMarksJonesboro.org)

# GREETINGS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE WORD OF GOD

*All standing, the Celebrant says*

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

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

*The Celebrant says*

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.**

## THE TRISAGION

Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty  
Holy Immortal One  
*Have mercy upon us.*

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY Advent IV

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* 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

**FIRST LESSON** A Reading from 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

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.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 *Misericordias Domini***

Spoken in unison

- 1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- 3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- 4 'I will establish your line for ever, \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"
- 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: \*  
"I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of  
the people.
- 20 I have found David my servant; \*  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

- 21 My hand will hold him fast \*  
and my arm will make him strong.
- 22 No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
nor any wicked man bring him down.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him \*  
and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
- 25 I shall make his dominion extend \*  
from the Great Sea to the River.
- 26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, \*  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

## **SECOND LESSON**    A Reading from 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.

*Lector:*        The Word of the Lord.

*People:*        **Thanks be to God.**

## **THE GOSPEL**

Luke 1:26-38

*Celebrant:*    The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark

*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.

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

**Fr. Dennis Campbell**

## THE NICENE CREED

**BCP 358**

*Celebrant and People*

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, FORM IV

BCP 387

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

*Intercessor*

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.

*Silence*

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.

*Silence*

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.

*Silence*

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.

*Silence*

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.

*Silence*

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.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 360

*The celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

*Celebrant 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 Priest 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 PEACE

BCP 360

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**ANTHEM.**      *My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord.*

Randall Thompson

### GREAT THANKSGIVING-RITE II, PRAYER B

BCP 367

*The people remain standing.*

*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 our thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant proceeds*

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 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

**Holy, holy, holy Lord.**

**God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory,**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues*

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**

*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 St Mark and 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.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Celebrant 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.*

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*A period of silence is kept.*

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

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

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Celebrant and People*

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**

## **DISMISSAL**

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

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Priest :** Fr. Dennis Campbell

**Musicians:** Rhonda Dauer, Joy Sanford, Crystal Kachevas,  
Zachary Lynn, Taylor Watkins, and Jacquelyn Young

**Lector:** Yvonne Nipper

**Cameraman:** Donald Mankin



Online giving is available by scanning here, using the Tithe.ly mobile app, or going to <http://give.stmarksjonesboro.org>.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Birthdays

Rebecca Carr    Tom Haynes  
JoAnn Steed    Aiden McBride  
Perry Moses

### Anniversaries

Phillip and Becky Wells

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two Saints' Kitchen



**Two Saints Kitchen:** Last week : Team 5 served 35+ to go lunches.

They served pizza, chips, fruit and water. They also distributed the ready to cook dinners to guests with means of cooking.

Extra food was shared with Breaking Bonds ministry. We thank Kroger for their donations.



**All Kroger Shoppers :** Donating to Two Saints' Kitchen Inc. through your Kroger App. cost you nothing! Kroger donates to an organization of your choice, through their Community Rewards program. If you have a Kroger card and use the app or have an account please add our Two Saints' Kitchen to your Community Rewards Program. From the home page go to the three lines

at the upper left of the page and select Rewards and then select Community Rewards. Type In 'Two Saints' Kitchen Inc . Each quarter of the year, Kroger will send this program a donation check. This does not cost you money, and it does not impact your Kroger Points, but it does help our program feed people who are food insecure. Every little bit helps! Also, pass on this information to your friends and family!



**Two Saints' Kitchen is still serving the community during the pandemic:** Two Saints Kitchen has had to change the way that they serve meals on Saturdays during the pandemic, they now serve food to go from the wrought iron gates. This has presented some challenges and new needs for them. Richard Owens has communicated with the church on some items that you could give and will help out. Dana has a box set up on the coffee hour bar where you may drop off your donation, a mask is required to enter the building.

**Items for donation:** bottle water, variety packs of individual chips, knife/fork/spoon packs found in take out meals, general purpose spray cleaners, liquid dish soap, dishwasher tabs, paper towels, extra large black trash bags, Plastic t-shirt bags, take out containers, and two thermometers for the freezers.

Your donation will always be much appreciated! You may also make a monetary donation to Two Saints Kitchen. ***Make a memo on your check or make a note if you give through Tithe.ly*** . Two Saints' is honored to help provide food to so many during this time and we are grateful to Kroger for providing food to our program. Volunteers are always needed: email the church and we will find you a spot at Two Saints' Kitchen! - Thank you, Richard Owens, Two Saints' Co- Director



**Forward Day by Day devotionals for Nov./Dec. 2020 - Jan. 2021** are now available. You may pick one up from the basket on the table immediately to the left when you enter through the double red doors. You may leave your \$1.00 donation in the basket.



### **Helping Neighbors:**

We can always use volunteers! We open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, from 10:00 am to 2:00pm. We are in need of relief people for the scales, a card person on Thursday afternoon and runners every day as well as people to go out to the cars and fill out the service slips . If you can volunteer text Gary Latanich at 870-926-5476. Thank you.

**FYI Prayer List and Announcements** : All through these past months our own chapter of Daughters of the King has continued to pray for St. Mark's, and for those who are on our prayer list. If you have someone that you would like to add to our church prayer list, you may contact Dana at [secretary@stmarksjonesboro.org](mailto:secretary@stmarksjonesboro.org) and she will be happy to add your prayer request to our list. Also, if you would like to include an announcement or a praise in the weekly announcements, you may email Dana and she will post your announcement.

Dear Friends in Christ,

What an extraordinary and challenging year 2020 has been! The pandemic and resulting imposed restrictions on meeting as a congregation has forced us to find new ways of worshipping and being a faith community.

That also has necessitated a new way of conducting a Fall Stewardship Campaign. The traditional approaches for a campaign (Every Member Canvas and/or a Celebration Dinner) simply are not feasible.

Yet, the ministries of St. Mark's go on to our parish community and the community at large. Their success relies on your generous contributions – even more so in these difficult times. As a result, we will be counting on each of you to respond faithfully to this simple appeal.

We ask that you prayerfully consider your 2021 pledge so that the Vestry can prepare an accurate budget for the coming year. You may pledge by clicking [here](#) or on the link below. If you prefer to complete a pledge card, you may contact Dana Moses (932-2124) in the Church office.

There will also be a basket on the front table to the left when you enter the church with pledge cards and envelopes. You may fill one out and slide it under the church office door. Be sure to write: Pledge on the front of the envelope. A mask is required to enter the building.

Thank you for your faithful support for the ministry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Sincerely,

*Andy Peeler*, Chairman of the Stewardship Committee

*Tom Haynes*, Senior Warden

*Fr. Dennis Campbell+*, Interim Rector

## ST. MARK'S STAFF

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*The Episcopal Church welcomes you!*



ST MARK'S  
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