

Church of the Incarnation

*A Parish of the Episcopal Church, Diocese of Montana
The Right Rev. Marty Stebbins, Bishop*

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The Rt. Rev. Marty Stebbins, Celebrant and Preacher
The Rev. Canon Glen Gleaves, Interim Priest-in-Charge
The Rev. Donna Gleaves, Deacon
The Rev. Marcia Lauzon, Deacon (*currently on leave*)
Shad Bailey, Organist
Camee Dohrman, Mary Ann Cosgrove, Lectors

December 11, Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 am., Holy Eucharist, Enriching our Worship

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 67: "Comfort, comfort ye my people"

Advent Candle Lighting

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People ***You come to your people and set them free.***

Kyrie S 95

Cantor or Choir *All* *Cantor or Choir*

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

All *Cantor or Choir* *All*

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Music: From the Litany of the Saints; adapt. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People And also with you.

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.***

The First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader A Reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,

and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

The Psalm appointed: Cantic 13

***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.***

The Epistle: James 5:7-10

Reader A reading from the letter of James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

Sequence Hymn 76, “On Jordan’s bank”

Gospel **Matthew 11:2-11**

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 according to Matthew.

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

 The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed (Enriching our Worship)

***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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.***

***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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified,***

***who 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,

Jesus said that the signs of God's dominion were to be seen in the healing of the sick, raising of the dead to new life, and the preaching of good news to the poor. Let us pray that our lives may be instruments of God's work in the world, saying: O God, most worthy of praise, hear our prayer.

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation. Grant that we who bear your image may be faithful stewards of your gift and administer its bounty with wisdom for the good of all your creatures. O God, most worthy of praise,
Hear our prayer.

We thank you that you have called us to be your people. Give us patience as we await your coming, and grant us wisdom to discern your will in our daily lives, that each of us may serve others for the building up of our common life. O God, most worthy of praise,
Hear our prayer.

We thank you for the community of faith throughout the world. Strengthen your church as it witnesses to your love, and hear our prayers for Presiding Bishop Michael, our Bishop, Marty, and all the clergy and people. Guide us in the fulfillment of your mission, that all may be one. O God, most worthy of praise,

Hear our prayer.

We thank you for the privilege of ministering to others. We remember before you all who are sick or in need, especially Dennis & MaryAnn, Cliff & Jeanette, Ardelle, Ted, Kevin, Linda, and Carol. We pray for those who have died. Grant us the grace to accept suffering with patience and to be strengthened by our common life in the body of Christ. O God, most worthy of praise,

Hear our prayer.

We thank you for your countless gifts. Above all, we thank you for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and for our unity in him through baptism. O God, most worthy of praise,

Hear our prayer.

We offer our thanksgiving and prayers to you, the one God and source of light and life, now and forever.

The Confession

Deacon Let us confess our sins to God.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

The Peace

Announcements

Offertory Hymn 438, "Tell out my soul"

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP, 3

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

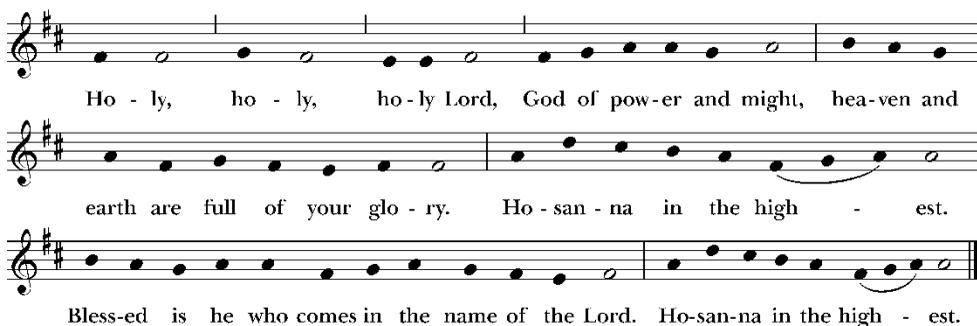
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus S 124 (Hurd)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *New Plain-song*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Celebrant Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: “Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming

in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and People

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Celebrant Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with [blessed _____, and] all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Celebrant and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
People ***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 for ever. Amen.***

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Behold what you are; become what you receive.

The Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray.

People ***God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.***

The Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. ***Amen.***

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. ***Amen.***

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. ***Amen.***

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. ***Amen.***

Closing Hymn 640, “Watchman, tell us of the night”

Dismissal

Deacon Go in safety, for you cannot go where God is not. Go in love, for love alone endures. Go in peace, for that is God's gift to those whose hearts and minds are in God's son, Jesus.

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

Reminders/Announcements



Advent is here and a new church year begins ... and four weeks later, Christmas! The church's new year, as well as the season of Advent, are thrilling ... filled with yearning, expectation and hope.

One of my deep hopes is for Altar Guild to arise ... like Christ at Easter. Covid and illness have taken a severe toll upon our ranks. Gayle (by herself!) and my husband and I (working together) have been alternating doing the worship preparations and clean up. Trudy has been changing out the altar between the 8am and 10am services. We need additional people to once again have a rotating schedule. Please open your heart. Can YOU help with this joyous ministry? Please contact Cheryl Quintero:406/468-0024 and/or cherylquintero@yahoo.com

Outreach in this season of love, hope, peace, and light.

- Members of Incarnation **are invited to provide gifts** to 30 individuals (parents and children) from the **Cameron Family housing center** (Great Falls Rescue Mission). We have the envelopes containing the information for the 30 gifts in the parish hall on (or near) the tree for you. We have until December 16th to bring the gifts to the R.M. Admin. Office. **So, if you can bring your *unwrapped* gifts back to the church by Wednesday, 12/14, we can get them all delivered!**

- ❖ Christmas Caroling to shut-ins: Sunday, December 18. We will have chili in the parish hall right after the 10 am service before caroling, then caroling, followed by City Bar for a warm-up.

Special Services

- ❖ **Christmas Eve service, Saturday, 12/24, 9 pm**
- ❖ **Christmas Day service, Sunday, 12/25, 10 am (One Service)**
- ❖ **New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, 10 am (One Service)**

