



St. Martin's Episcopal Church  
Bridgewater, New Jersey



An Abbreviated Celebration of the Holy Eucharist  
with Spiritual Communion

December 20, 2020

## **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

### **Opening Hymn: *For Mary, Mother of Our Lord***

Priest: + Blessed are you, Holy and Living God.

*All: You come to your people and set them free.*

### **Trisagion (said three times)**

Priest: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, *All: Have mercy upon us*

### **Collect of the Day**

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 forever. *Amen.*

### **The Lesson (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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people/ *Thanks be to God*

## **Canticle 15 The Song of Mary *Magnificat***

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 forever. *Amen.*

## **The Holy Gospel**

The Holy Gospel of our + Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

*All: 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.

The Gospel of the Lord./ *All: Praise to you, O Christ.*

**The Homily**

**The Rev. Dr. Robert Laws**

## **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, 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.

## **The Prayers of the People**

Intercessor: God of love, as we joyfully await the glorious coming of Christ, we pray to you for the needs of the church and the world.

Intercessor: For peace in the world and for the salvation of all, we pray to you O God of love, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: For your holy catholic church, that it may persevere in faith and hope, we pray to you O God of love, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: For the poor and the unemployed, the homeless, prisoners and refugees, we pray to you O God of love, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: For the sick and all who suffer in body, mind or spirit, especially *(insert names here)* we pray to you O God of love, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: For all who have died, especially *(insert names here)* we pray to you O God of love, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: In the communion of the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Martin, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. *To you, O Lord our God.*

Priest: Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.  
*Amen.*

### **Confession of Sin and Absolution**

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

All: 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.

Priest: 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 and The Offertory Sentence**

**Anthem:** *There Is No Rose, Stopford*

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

*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.*

### **An Act of Spiritual Communion**

In union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen. Lord Jesus, come dwell in my heart.

### **Blessing and Dismissal**

**Closing Hymn: Hymn 56** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

## Lyrics:

### *For Mary, Mother of Our Lord*

For Mary, Mother of Our Lord, God's holy name be praised,  
Who first the Son of God adored, as on her child she gazed.

The angel Gabriel brought the word, She should Christ's mother be;  
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord, made answer willingly.

The heavenly call she thus obeyed, and so God's will was done;  
The second Eve love's answer made, which our redemption won.

Dear Mary, from your lowliness and home in Galilee,  
There comes a joy and holiness to every family.

Hail Mary, you are full of grace, above all women blest;  
And Blest your Son, whom your embrace In birth and death confessed.

### **Anthem: *There Is No Rose*, Philip Stopford**

There is no rose of such virtue,  
as is the rose that bare Jesu. Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space.  
*Resmiranda*. (Wondrous thing)

For by that rose we may well see that he is God in persons three.  
*Parisforma*. (One in form)

The angels sungen the shepherds to: Gloria in excelsis Deo. (Glory to God in the highest)  
*Gaudeamus*. (Let us rejoice)

Leave all this worldly mirth and follow we this joyful birth.  
*Transeamus*. (Let us cross over)

There is no rose of such virtue, as is the rose that bare Jesu.



*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny  
that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind;  
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!