

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 20, 2020



*The Annunciation* —Henry Ossawa Tanner 1898

PROCESSIONAL

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Hymn 66

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><sup>1</sup> Come, Thou long expected Jesus<br/>born to set Thy people free;<br/>from our fears and sins release us,<br/>let us find our rest in Thee.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Israel's strength and consolation,<br/>hope of all the earth Thou art;<br/>dear Desire of every nation,<br/>joy of every longing heart.</p> | <p><sup>3</sup> Born Thy people to deliver,<br/>born a child, and yet a King,<br/>born to reign in us forever,<br/>now Thy gracious kingdom bring.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> By thine own eternal Spirit<br/>rule in all our hearts alone;<br/>by thine all sufficient merit,<br/>raise us to Thy glorious throne.</p> |
|---|--|

*Celebrant*  
**People**

Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.  
**His mercy endureth forever.**

*Celebrant*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All Sing

Hymn S-91

**Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
**People** **And with thy spirit.**  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**THE FIRST LESSON**

*2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16*

And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies; That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the LORD is with thee."

And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying, Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle. In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, "Why build ye not me an house of cedar?" Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the shepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel: And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth. Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime and as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.  
**People** **Thanks be to God.**

**THE CANTICLE**

*Magnificat*

Hymn S-185

**He that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.**  
My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

**For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name.**  
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud  
in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.  
**He that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.**

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.  
**He that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.**

**THE EPISTLE**

*Romans 16:25-27*

Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: to God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

*Lector*            The Word of the Lord.  
**People**            **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL HYMN**

*The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came*

Hymn 265

- <sup>1</sup> The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!
- <sup>2</sup> “For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady,” Gloria!
- <sup>3</sup> Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,  
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.”  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
- <sup>4</sup> Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say—  
“Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

**THE GOSPEL**

*Luke 1:26-38*

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**People** **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.  
**People** **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Fr. Stace Tafoya

**THE NICENE CREED**

**All** **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Celebrant* 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.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

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.

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

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.

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

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants Departed this life in thy faith and fear especially \_\_\_\_\_, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of \_\_\_\_\_ and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

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

*Celebrant* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Silence*

**All** **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.**

*Celebrant* 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.**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**People** **And with thy spirit.**

**OFFERTORY**

*Gabriel's Message Does Away*

Hymn 270

<sup>1</sup> Gabriel's message does away  
Satan's curse and Satan's sway,  
out of darkness brings our Day:  
so, behold, all the gates of heaven unfold.

<sup>2</sup> He that comes despised shall reign;  
he that cannot die, be slain;  
death by death its death shall gain:  
so, behold, all the gates of heaven unfold.

*continued...*



mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.** Hymn S-147

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

**All** **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.**

**All Sing** Hymn S-158

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.**

**All** **We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

*Celebrant* 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.

COMMUNION HYMN

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Hymn 81

- <sup>1</sup> Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
 from tender stem hath sprung!  
 of Jesse's lineage coming  
 as seers of old have sung.  
 It came, a blossom bright,  
 amid the cold of winter,  
 when half spent was the night.
- <sup>2</sup> Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
 the rose I have in mind,  
 with Mary we behold it,  
 the virgin mother kind.  
 To show God's love aright,  
 she bore to us a Savior,  
 when half spent was the night.
- <sup>3</sup> O Flower, whose fragrance tender  
 with sweetness fills the air,  
 dispels in glorious splendor  
 the darkness everywhere;  
 True man, yet very God,  
 from sin and death now save us  
 and share our every load.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**All** **Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

*Celebrant* 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.**

RECESSIONAL

*Blest Be the King Whose Coming*

Hymn 74

- <sup>1</sup> Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!  
 For him let doors be opened, no hearts against him barred!  
 Not robed in royal splendor, in power and pomp, comes he;  
 but clad as are the poorest, such his humility!
- <sup>2</sup> Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!  
 By those who truly listen his voice is truly heard;  
 pity the proud and haughty, who have not learned to heed  
 the Christ who is the Promise, who has atonement made.
- <sup>3</sup> Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!  
 He only to the humble reveals the face of God.  
 All power is his, all glory! All things are in his hand,  
 all ages and all peoples, till time itself shall end!
- <sup>4</sup> Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!  
 He offers to the burdened the rest and grace they need.  
 Gentle is he and humble! And light his yoke shall be,  
 for he would have us bear it so he can make us free.





Annunciation —Botticelli 15<sup>th</sup> century