



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NC  
An Online Expression of an Ante-Communion Holy Eucharist  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**November 29, 2020**

The Rev. James G. Reed – Celebrant and Preacher  
Dexter Ruffin, Organist  
Bobby Boykin, Lay Reader

**Opening Hymn**

*“Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us*

**H 61**

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

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.**

**Trisagion (Dexter)**

Ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y, ho - ly im - mor - tal one,  
have mer - cy on us. Ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,  
ho - ly im - mor - tal one, have mer - cy on us.

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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**THE LESSON** (read by Bobby Boykin)

**A Reading from Isaiah 64:1-9**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil--  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18** (read by Bobby Boykin)

- <sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- <sup>2</sup> In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>4</sup> O LORD God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?
- <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- <sup>6</sup> You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>16</sup> Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- <sup>17</sup> And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- <sup>18</sup> Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**THE EPISTLE** (read by Bobby Boykin)

**A Reading from 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

**SEQUENCE HYMN**

*Rejoice! rejoice, believers*

**H 68**

**THE GOSPEL**

**Mark 13:24-37**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,

and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

*Celebrant*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*                Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## THE SERMON

The Rev. James G. Reed

## 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:  
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.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - FORM III** (read by Bobby Boykin)

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Sam and Anne, our Bishops; Jim, our priest; and for all bishops, priests, deacons, and those in religious orders.  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for Donald our President, Roy our Governor, and Carlton our Mayor and all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world.  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on; those who have immediate needs -- Buster Dawson, Bonnie Campbell, Eva Morriss, Bill Wrenn, Dallas Clark, April Lamm, Dick Cozart, Lee Wilhelm, Jerry Hamill, Miles Johnson, Chris Perri, Don Doster, William Blake Tucker, those affected by Covid-19, those affected by the lack of respect for the dignity of every person; and, those who have ongoing needs as listed in our website and those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed, eternal rest;  
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.  
*Silence.*

Let us pray together:  
O gracious God, you know our needs as we continue this journey to recognize and select our new Rector.

We ask Your Holy Spirit for guidance, insight, and direction as we prayerfully draw to our midst the leader you would choose for us.

Grant us continued confidence in our choices and strength to embrace the changes.

Finally, we ask Your blessing upon the St. Timothy's family, as we continue to pray for the priest, known to You. All this we ask in Jesus's name, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

We pray for the mission and ministries of our sister Episcopal Churches of St Mark's and Guadalupana.

We pray for our military personnel serving throughout the world, particularly those in war zones. We pray for those affected by terrorism, both domestic and abroad, and for those who protect us from such acts of violence.

We pray for those who are celebrating birthdays this week, especially Evelyn Baskervill, Peggy Ellis, Chuck Rakow, Arcelio Newell, Lennox Jones, Charley Watkevich, Paige Webb, George Stronach, Clark Ballard, Thomas Farmer, Holmes Smoot, Kristi Randolph, and Linda Sheen.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister 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 Bishop, when present, or 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 BLESSING**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **CLOSING VOLUNTARY (Dexter)**