

The First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2011



**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
1512 Willow
Blytheville AR 72315**

**Rt. Rev. Larry Benfield, Bishop Arkansas
Rev. Fr. John Scott Trotter**

**870 763 8646
www.saintstephensblytheville.org
www.facebook.com/ststephensblytheville**

The Great Litany

The people stand as they are able.

I.

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,
Have mercy on us.

Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,
Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, One God,
Have mercy on us.

II.

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred and malice; and from all evil intent,
Savior deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from hardness of heart
and contempt for your word and your laws,
Savior deliver us.

From sins of body and mind; from deceits of the world, flesh and the
devil,
Savior deliver us.

From famine and disaster; from violence, murder, and dying
unprepared,
Savior deliver us.

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy; in the hour of our death and
at the day of judgment,
Savior deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience; by your baptism, fasting and temptation,
Savior deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power; by the preaching of your reign,
Savior deliver us.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion; by your precious death and burial,
Savior deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension; and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
Savior deliver us.

III.

Hear our prayers, O Christ our God.
Hear us, O Christ.

Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that unity which is your will.
Hear us, O Christ.

Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world, and to make disciples of all the nations.
Hear us, O Christ.

Enlighten your bishops, priests and deacons (especially _____) with knowledge and understanding, that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word.
Hear us, O Christ.

Give your people grace to witness to your word and bring forth the fruit of your Spirit.
Hear us, O Christ.

Bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived.
Hear us, O Christ.

Strengthen those who stand; comfort and help the fainthearted; raise up the fallen; and finally beat down Satan under our feet.
Hear us, O Christ.

IV.

Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice.
Hear us, O Christ.

Give your wisdom and strength to _____, the President of the United States, _____ the Governor of this state, (and _____, the Mayor of this city) that in all things they may do your will, for your glory and the common good.
Hear us, O Christ.

Give to the Congress of the United States, the members of the President's Cabinet, those who serve in our state legislature, and all others in authority the grace to walk always in the ways of truth.
Hear us, O Christ.

Bless the justices of the Supreme Court and all those who administer the law, that they may act with integrity and do justice for all your people.
Hear us, O Christ.

Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory and for the good of all.
Hear us, O Christ.

Bless and keep all your people,
Hear us, O Christ.

V.

Comfort and liberate the lonely, the bereaved (especially _____) and the oppressed.
Hear us, O Christ.

Keep in safety those who travel (especially _____) and all who are in peril.

Hear us, O Christ.

Heal the sick in body, mind or spirit (especially _____) and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

Hear us, O Christ.

Guard and protect all children who are in danger.

Hear us, O Christ.

Shower your compassion on prisoners, hostages and refugees, and all who are in trouble.

Hear us, O Christ.

Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

Hear us, O Christ.

Hear us as we remember those who have died (especially _____) and grant us with them a share in your eternal glory.

Hear us, O Christ.

VI.

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your word.

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy on us.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all

those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Penitential Order

Entrance Rites

The people stand as they are able.

Opening Acclamation

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

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

The people kneel as they are able.

Penitential Sentence

The Presider then says

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

A period of silence is kept.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All say together

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.

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.

A Song of Penitence

Canticle 14

BCP p. 90

Prayer of Manasseh, 1-2, 4, 6-7, 11-15

Canticle 14

A Song of Penitence

Kyrie Pantokrator

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, *
 God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
 and of all their righteous offspring:
You made the heavens and the earth, *
 with all their vast array.
All things quake with fear at your presence; *
 they tremble because of your power.
But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; *
 it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.
O Lord, you are full of compassion, *
 long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.
You hold back your hand; *
 you do not punish as we deserve.
In your great goodness, Lord,
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, *
 that they may repent of their sin and be saved.
And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, *
 and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, *
and I know my wickedness only too well.
Therefore I make this prayer to you: *
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.
Do not let me perish in my sin, *
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.
For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, *
and in me you will show forth your goodness.
Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
in accordance with your great mercy, *
and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.
For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, *
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

Collect of the Day

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.*

A period of silence is kept.

The Word of God

First Reading

A reading from The Book of Isaiah.

1

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

- ² Ch 64.1 in Hebas 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!
- ³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ 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.
- ⁶ 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.
- ⁷ 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.
- ⁸ Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
- ⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

A period of silence is kept.

Qui regis Israel

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

Second Reading

A reading from The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—
⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷
so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the

revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A period of silence is kept.

The people stand as they are able.

Sequence Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #66 - Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Jesus said, ²⁴ “In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ “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. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know

that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and

earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³² “But about

that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know

when the time will come. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ 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, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord
People
Praise to you, Lord Christ

A period of silence is kept.

Sermon

The people stand as they are able.

The Nicene Creed

All say together

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.

A period of silence is kept.

Collect

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

A period of silence is kept.

The Priest says

O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. *Revelation 4:11*

Offertory Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 # 380, vs 3

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures, here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving

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.*

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 Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he

triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:

“Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The People respond Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

***People and
Celebrant***

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
 have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
 have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
 grant us peace.

The Priest invites the people to Communion

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

The Hymnal 1982 #332 - O God, unseen yet ever near

The people stand as they are able.

Postcommunion 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

The Bishop or Priest says

Going Forth Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #423 - Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Prayers, Calendar, Announcements

Prayer List

Please remember these in your prayers: Buzz and Barbara Dale, Dale, Carter, Bob, BJ, Charles, Sherry, Josephine, Gailya, Ashley, Corbet, Anita, Betty, Angie, Marcel, David, those traveling, those deployed, police, fire and first responders, victims of domestic abuse

Calendar

This evening

4:00 pm Eucharist

5:00 pm Adult Sunday School Sunday

12/4

8:30am Eucharist

3:00pm Festival of Lessons and Carols @ First Baptist, by ANC Community Choir, directed by Dr. Keith Hearnberger.

4:00pm Eucharist

5:00pm Adult Sunday School Sunday

Announcements

Help *rebuild the soul of a nation*; brick by brick goto

www.episcopalchurch.org/haitiappeal

St. Stephen's information sites

www.saintstephensblytheville.org

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