

# The First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2012



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

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

870 763 8646  
[www.saintstephensblytheville.org](http://www.saintstephensblytheville.org)  
[www.facebook.com/ststephensblytheville](https://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.*

Show 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*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

*A period of silence is kept.*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*The people kneel as they are able.*

*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.

*The people stand as they are able.*

*The Hymnal 1982 #401 - The God of Abraham praise*

1 The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove;  
 2 He by him - self hath sworn: we on his oath de - pend;  
 3 There dwells the Lord, our King, the Lord, our Right - eous - ness,  
 4 The God who reigns on high the great arch - an - gels sing,  
 5 The whole tri - um - phant host give thanks to God on high;

1 An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love;  
 2 we shall, on ea - gle - wings up - borne, to heaven a - scend;  
 3 tri - um - phant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace;  
 4 and "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," cry, "Al - might - y King!  
 5 "Hail, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry;

1 the Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed:  
 2 we shall be-hold his face, we shall his power a-dore,  
 3 on Zi-on's sa-cred height his king-dom he main-tains,  
 4 Who was, and is, the same, and ev-er-more shall be;  
 5 hail, A-braham's Lord di-vine! With heaven our songs we raise;

we bow and bless the sa-cred Name for ev-er-blest.  
 and sing the won-ders of his grace for ev-er-more.  
 and, glo-rious with his saints in light, for ev-er-reigns.  
 e-ter-nal Fa-ther, great I AM, we wor-ship thee.  
 all might and ma-jes-ty are thine, and end-less praise.

Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt. Music: *Leoni*, Hebrew melody; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, alt.

## 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.*

*The people sit.*

## The Word of God

### First Reading

A reading from The Book of Jeremiah (33:14-16).

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord  
People  
Thanks be to God

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Psalm 25:1-9**

*BCP p. 614*

*Ad te, Domine, levavi*

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \*

and teaches his way to the lowly.

- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

*A period of silence is kept.*

## **Second Reading**

A reading from The First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (3:9-13).

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. <sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord  
People  
Thanks be to God

*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 Luke (21:25-36).

Glory to you, Lord Christ

<sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is

coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know

that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken

place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with

dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon

all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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.*

## **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.*

## **Announcements**

### The Holy Communion

*The people sit.*

*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*

*The people stand as they are able.*

### **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.*

*The Hymnal 1982, Service Music #130*

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:

EOW1 59

*Celebrant and people*

Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.

EOW1 59

*The Celebrant continues*

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with [ \_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN

*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.*

## Fraction Anthem

*The Hymnal 1982, Service Music #164*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

The first line of the Fraction Anthem features a treble and bass staff in G major. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with a bass line providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us."

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

The second line continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us."

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

The third line continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:"

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The fourth line concludes the Fraction Anthem. The lyrics are: "give us your peace, give us your 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.

*All are invited to receive communion. Come to the rail, extend your hands one over the other, the minister will place bread in your palm, which you consume; to receive wine raise your hands, the minister will offer you the chalice, please guide it to your lips and sip. If you choose not to receive you may receive a blessing; cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you. You may choose to remain seated.*

## **Communion Hymn**

The Hymnal 1982 #313 - Let thy Blood in mercy poured

*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**

BOS 22

*The Bishop or Priest says*

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.*

## **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**

Ronnie, Joe, Bill, Chris, John, Buzz, Dale, Angie, Marcel, Corbet, meals on wheels, making better men of young men, those serving our country, those traveling, those we now name

## **Calendar**

### **12/2 First Sunday in Advent**

8:30 am Eucharist

9:30 am Fellowship

3:00 pm ANC Concert, 1st Baptist

**12/4** 6:00 pm Allanon

**12/6** 6:00 pm Tree Lighting

**12/6** 6:00 pm Keith's Annual Holiday Party

**12/7**

6:00 pm Friday Families

6:30 pm Christmas Parade

**12/8**

8:30 am Eucharist

9:30 am Fellowship

## **Announcements**

***Sunday, December 2, the ANC Department of Music will present : A Festival of Lessons and Carols 3 p.m. @ First Baptist Church! The ANC Concert Singers, Women's Chorale, Chamber Singers, and Community***

**Choir will be the performing groups, with many community and college leaders serving as readers! Come out and support the ANC Music Department in this tradition for our community!**

-----

**Keith's Annual Holiday Party is December 6th, 6:00-9:00 (Drop by) at the Taylor House on Main Street Blytheville! Come enjoy festive goodies as we celebrate the holiday season! All are invited !**

**Worship Leaders**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Proper</b>	<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Intercessor (Prayers of the People)</b>
-------------	---------------	-----------------------------	---------------	--

December 2	Advent 1	Katheryn Musholt	Connie Erwin	Pat McGrain
------------	----------	---------------------	-----------------	-------------

December 9	Advent 2	John Spandikow	Beth McGrain	Connie Erwin
------------	----------	-------------------	-----------------	--------------

**Fr. Scott's contact**

870 740 9777

[frscott94@gmail.com](mailto:frscott94@gmail.com)



**St. Stephen's contact**

[saint.stephens@att.net](mailto:saint.stephens@att.net)

[www.saintstephensblytheville.org](http://www.saintstephensblytheville.org)

[www.facebook.com/ststephensblytheville](https://www.facebook.com/ststephensblytheville)

870 763 8646



Created using *riteworship*. All musical selections reprinted with the permission of *ritesong*. All rights reserved. Used with permission. All scripture passages are taken from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.