



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church Ada, OK

**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 15, 2024 9:00am**

**Our Mission: To live in Christ, to love the world, and to serve one another.**

**Prelude:** *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice* Arr. by Hilton Kean Jones

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

**Advent Three: Proclamation and Joy**

**Scripture Reflection:** "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them." *Luke 2:20*

*Light the first and second purple candles and the pink candle*

**Advent Wreath Prayer:** Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. *Amen.*

**Opening Hymn:** #72 *Hark, the Glad Sound!*

**Opening Acclamation:** Page 355 BCP (Book of Common Prayer)

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

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

**The Collect for Purity**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thought 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.*

## Kyrie Eleison: S 98

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

## The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And also, with you.*

**Celebrant:** Let us Pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## The First Lesson

### Zephaniah 3:14-20

A Reading from the Prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.  
The Word of the Lord.

**People:**        *Thanks be to God.*

## **Response**

**Lector:**        Let us now say together the First Song of Isaiah.

**Canticle 9**                Page 86, BCP

**The First Song of Isaiah**    *Ecce Deus*    *Isaiah 12:2-6*

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.  
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.  
And on that day you shall say, \*  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;  
Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*  
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.  
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.  
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.*

**The Epistle** **Philippians 4:4-7**

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Gradual Hymn:** #65 *Prepare the Way, O Zion (1-2/3)*

**The Gospel** **Luke 3:7-18**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## **The Sermon**

**The Rev. Mike Stephenson**

### **The Nicene Creed Page 358 BCP**

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.*

## **Prayers of the People:**            Form I, BCP Page 383

*The Leader and People pray responsively.*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Poulson, our Bishop; Isaac, our Priest, Mike, our Supply Priest; Bobby and Robert, our Deacons, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Oklahoma, especially St. Peter’s, Coalgate; in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Matthew’s, Enid and The Anglican Church of Tanzania; for all bishops and other ministers, and for all clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For our President Joe, our Governor, Kevin, our Mayor, Randy, the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, Bill, and for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For this city, Ada, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, and for all the blessings of this life, especially for those in our Parish Cycle of Prayer, Don, Peggy, & Mark Page, Katy & Marianna Percy, Bill & Dean Peterson, and The Vestry of St. Luke’s.

For those celebrating birthdays this week: Evie Riden, Deanna Compton, and Landry Brown.

For those celebrating anniversaries this week: Dustin & Christy Sheppard.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. The altar flowers are given by the Tom Crabtree family in loving memory of Judy Crabtree. Pray that we have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering.

For those serving our country at home or abroad:

McKinley Noel      Eli Walling      Paige Perkinson      Cait & Collin Rivers

We also pray for our veterans, especially for those still struggling with wartime wounds, let them feel your comfort and healing grace.

For those who are in hospitals and others who need healing:

Robert Martinez	Michael Hughes	April Nesbit	Lisa Ainsworth
Salyer Roebuck	Winnie Hobbs	Rusty Hall	Michelle Mell
River Northcutt	Libby Thomas	Olivia Bragg	Renee Hogue
Richard Blaylock	Landon Kennedy	Jack White	James King, Jr.
Anthony Sutton	Jennifer Anderson Wells		Judy Coy
Linda Harwell			

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of St. Luke's 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.**

**Celebrant:**

Hasten, O Father, 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.*

**The Confession**      Page 360 BCP

**Deacon:**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**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.*

**Celebrant:**

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

## The Announcements

### Offertory

*An offering of money is received. Everyone worshiping this morning is invited to make an offering as an expression of gratitude for God's generosity. Many support St. Luke's through pledged offerings made via mail or online through Tithely. Together our gifts make possible for us to live fully into our mission of to live in Christ, to love the world, and to serve one another.*

**Offertory Hymn:** #640 Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night

**Doxology:** Sung to the tune of hymn #380

Praise God from who all blessings flow.

Praise Him/God all creatures here below.

Praise Him/God above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## The Holy Communion

*Eucharistic Prayer B, Page 367 BCP*

## 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 him thanks and praise.*

**Celebrant:**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

**Sanctus:** *S-130 Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

***Celebrant and People:***

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
    heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

***Celebrant:***

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread: and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is My Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

***Celebrant and People:***

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

***Celebrant:***

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

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

***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**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

**Communion Hymn:**

*#55 Redeemer of the Nations, Come*

***Celebrant:*** Let us pray.

### ***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.*

### **The Blessing**

**Closing Hymn:**      *#58 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

### **The Dismissal**

**Deacon:**      Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**People:**      *Thanks be to God.*

**Postlude:**      *Oh Come, All Ye Faithful*      By John W. Wade  
Arr. by Hilton Kean Jones

### **Serving Today:**

**Officiant:**                      The Rev. Mike Stephenson  
**Deacons:**                      Rev. Bobby Saunkeah & Rev. Robert Willis  
**Lector:**                        Royanna Willis  
**Organist:**                      Farren Rowan  
**Acolyte:**                        Jeri Escobedo  
**Ushers:**                        Shirley Mixon & Christine Pappas  
**Altar Guild:**                    Johnnie Caufield

### **Vestry Members:**

**Senior Warden:** Angus McFarlane  
**Junior Warden:** Katrina McCurdy  
**Treasurer:** Barbara Suess  
**Secretary:** Diane Criswell

Tonya Wood	Phyllis Wallace	Joy Dawn Miller
Anne Escobedo	Bridget Forshay	Erin Bigelow-Jacob
Phillip Cody	Shirley Mixon	

