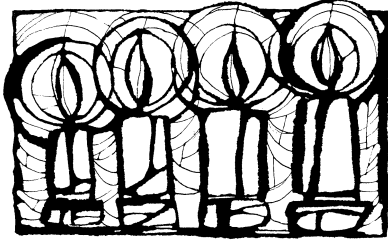


advent



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

December 15, 2024 · 10:30 am

All are welcome to worship God in this place.

Bold type indicates all the people shall read aloud.

PRELUDE Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Georg Böhm

PROCESSIONAL HYMN Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Hymnal - 67

Psalm 42



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him.
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Robertson Family

Adapted from Advent Candle Liturgy, Church of the Resurrection, Roslyn, WA

Celebrant Jesus Christ is the light of the world!

People **A light no darkness can overcome.**

Lector We have lit the first two candles, one for *Hope* and one for *Peace*. Today we light the third candle, the candle of *Joy*. *Joy* is all around us, but often we let our preparations or our memories push *Joy* to the side. *Joy* is like an underground spring that swells up within us, as the prophet Isaiah reminds us, but *Joy* is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle it needs to be exercised. So

today we open ourselves to *Joy*, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer to share.

Lector Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of *Hope*. Teach us the *Peace* that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of *Joy* that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

All **Rejoice in God always, rejoice. For God has created us with the capacity for joy.**

KYRIE

Hymnal S-91

Healey Willan

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **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

Lector A reading from the book of 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 9 *Hymnal S- 213*

We will sing the canticle together.

Antiphon

Sing the prais - es of the Lord, for he has done great things.

1. Sure - ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not
be a - fraid. 2. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure de - fense,
and he will be my Sa - vior. 3. Therefore you shall draw water
with re - joic - ing from the springs of sal - va - tion.

4. And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call
up - on his Name; 5. Make his deeds known a - mong the peo - ples;
See that they remember that his Name is ex - alt - ed.

6. Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,
and this is known in all the world. 7. Cry aloud, inhabitants of
Zi - on, ring out your joy, for the great one in the
midst of you is the Holy One of Is - ra - el. [Ant.]

(Gloria Patri may be omitted)

Glory to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit:
As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for ev - er. A - men.

FA... 1

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

Lector 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

THE GRADUAL HYMN

What is the Crying at Jordan Hymnal - 69 *St. Mark's Berkley*



1 What is the cry - ing at Jor - dan? Who
2 Who then shall stir in this dark - ness, pre -
3 Lord, give us grace to a - wake us, to
4 Now comes the day of sal - va - tion, in



hears, O God, the pro - phe - cy? Dark is the
pare for joy in the win - ter night? Mor - tal in
see the branch that be - gins to bloom; in great hu -
joy and ter - ror the Word is born! God gives him -



sea - son, dark our hearts and shut to mys - ter - y.
dark - ness we lie down, blind - heart - ed, see - ing no light.
mi - li - ty is hid all heaven in a lit - tle room.
self in - to our lives; O let sal - va - tion dawn!

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

The Gospeller introduces the Gospel, saying

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

All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospeller continues

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.

Gospeller

The Gospel of the Lord.

All

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Abraham Allende

THE NICENE CREED

Book of Common Prayer 358

All

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

Praying the Scriptures by Jeremiah D. Williamson

Lector Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Surely, it is God who saves us; therefore, we joyfully pray to the Lord, "God our salvation: **thank you.**"

Lector Though hindered by our sins and in need of your bountiful grace and mercy, you never leave us. You are ever in our midst. Bless our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop, Anne; and all our deacons and priests. May they always be a reminder of your abiding presence. Renew your church in love. We also pray for our siblings in Christ at St. Barnabas in Bay Village and their youth ministry. I invite you to add your thanksgiving, either silently or out loud.

Silence

Lector God our salvation:

People **Thank you.**

Lector Almighty and loving God, Grant us wisdom and patience as we seek a new priest-in-charge for our parish. Guide the hearts of our search committee and all involved, that they may listen to Your Spirit and each other, discerning faithfully and trusting in Your timing. Prepare the heart of our future clergy leader, and may this journey strengthen our unity and deepen our trust in Your will.

Silence

Lector God our salvation:

People **Thank you.**

Lector Make your deeds known among the people, O God. Save the lame; gather the outcast. May the exiles know home and all people know your peace.

Silence

Lector God our salvation:

People **Thank you.**

Lector May your springs of salvation renew the earth. Heal our planet and restore us in a sense of

responsibility and gratitude.

Silence

Lector God our salvation:

People **Thank you.**

Lector Merciful God, in this month of great excess and consumerism, call the financial and business communities to act justly and generously. Grant that those without coats be clothed and those without food be fed.

Silence

Lector God our salvation:

People **Thank you.**

Lector O God, you have done great things. With thankful hearts we pray to you for those burdened by shame, grief, or weakness. Be for them a stronghold and a sure defense.

I invite you to add your petitions, either silently or out loud.

Silence

Lector God our salvation:

People **Thank you.**

Lector God our salvation, gather us, with all those who have died, into your sacred heart. Grant us to sing your praises for all eternity.

Silence

Lector God our salvation:

People **Thank you.**

THE CONCLUDING COLLECT

Praying the Scriptures by Jeremiah D. Williamson

Celebrant God our hope, in your tenderness and compassion, hear our prayers. May they be to you as a precious offering from the treasure of our hearts. We present them to you, because you are faithful and your love endures forever and ever. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Book of Occasional Services 19

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of our Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

The congregation greets one another in the name of Christ.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & BLESSINGS

BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR SOJOURNER HOUSE

OFFERTORY

Celebrant Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Rejoice in the Lord Always

Anonymous

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please indicate to the Priest if you would prefer the gluten free wafers.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

Book of Common Prayer 367

SURSUM CORDA

Hymnal S - 120

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.**

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.

Celebrant 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.

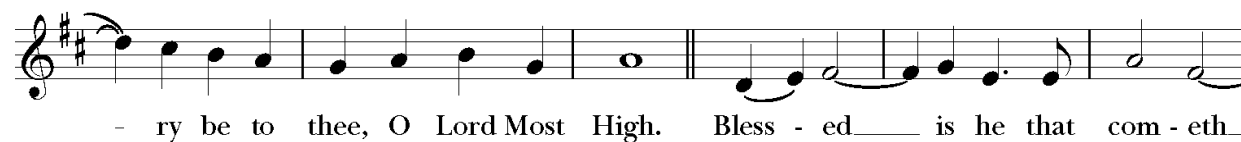
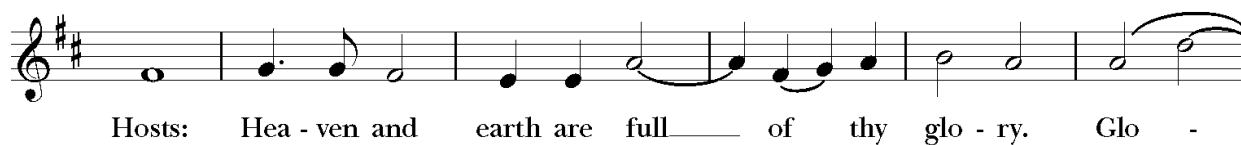
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

SANCTUS Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymnal S-114

Healey Willan



The People stand or kneel

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 it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All **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 his 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 [_____ and] 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has 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.**

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

O Lamb of God

Hymnal S-158

Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

THE INVITATION

The Celebrant invites the congregation forward to receive Holy Communion with these or similar words

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 MOTET There Is No Rose

Anonymous

HOLY COMMUNION

THE PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of Thy Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer You praise and thanksgiving. I present to You my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to You. And since I can not now receive You sacramentally, I beseech You to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to You, and embrace You with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate You from me. May I live and die in Your love. **Amen.**

Spend a few moments in meditation upon the fact that God so loved you that He sent His Only-Begotten Son into the world for you.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Book of Common Prayer 366

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Celebrant May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**



1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
 The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

All **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Georg Böhm

MUSIC NOTES

Today's prelude and postlude as well as our processional hymn are based on the hymn tune used in the Dutch Reformed Church for Psalm 42. Most German hymnals have eight stanzas, Georg Böhm made 12 variations, and our hymnal has but three stanzas.

Georg Böhm (1661-1733) was for many years the musician at St. John's Church in Lüneburg. It has now been proven that the young J. S. Bach studied with Böhm, with Böhm later serving as a sales agent for some of Bach's compositions. Böhm was known especially for his skill in composing variations.



WE PRAY FOR those who have requested prayer this month:

T.J. Leo, Allen DeMarks, Kim Daniels, Jim Ehret, Vickey, Ginger Elliott, Carmela, Adam Sullivan,
Doug Hotchkiss, Charles Rumberg, Twila, Carol, Wally, Emma Jones, Ron Robertson,
Diane New, Gaynell Harris, Carlos & Julianna Caguiat, Heather Foley, Denise Lancaster



WE PRAY FOR the faithful departed and their families:

Thomas Wrona died on Friday, November 8, 2024 and will be remembered at St. John's on Saturday, December 28th at 10:00am.

S · A · I · N · T
JOHN'S
Episcopal Church · Youngstown

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL PARISHIONERS WHO SERVE EACH WEEK AS
MUSICIANS, READERS, ALTAR GUILD, AND VIDEOGRAPHER.

Many thanks to contributions made in honor of loved
ones for flowers and aumbrey candle each week.

The Material in the bulletin is taken from
The Book of Common Prayer

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INTERIM RECTOR
The Rev. Abraham Allende