

St. James Episcopal Church
Morning Prayer, Rite II

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate and worship God this fine morning. Feel free to speak the “people” part of the service along with those present at the church. Otherwise, simply participate with us as you would if you were sitting in the pew: join with the rest of the congregation, spread out though close in prayer, as we turn our hearts to God.

Opening Hymn #72

Hark! The Glad Sound

Hark! The glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release in Satan’s bondage held;
The gates of brass before him burst, and iron fetters yield.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim;
And heaven’s eternal arches ring with thy beloved Name.

Opening Sentences

BCP p 75

The Officiant celebrant begins

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in
the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

Confession of Sin

BCP p 79

The Officiant continues

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept. The Officiant and People 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.

The Priest pronounces the absolution:

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.

People Amen.

The Invitatory

BCP p 80

All stand

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant and People

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.
Alleluia.

All now join in saying:

Psalm 126 *In convertendo*

BCP p 782

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."

4 The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

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 Lessons

Reader: A reading from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God!**

Canticle 15 The Song of Mary *Magnificat Luke 1:46-55* BCP p 91

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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.

Gospel Hymn #76

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God
within,
And let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward;

without thy grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.

Al praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent doth thy people free;
Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

The Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Then, all standing, the Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to St. John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after

The Prayers

BCP p 97

The People stand or kneel

Officiant **The Lord be with you.**

People And also with you.

Officiant **Let us pray.**

Officiant and People

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 Suffrages

BCP p 97

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Collects

BCP p 98

The Collect of the Day

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.*

A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified:

Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Birthdays (*Nita Crew 12/19*)

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant *N.* as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,

and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14

Closing Hymn # 437

Tell Out My Soul

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore

St. James Episcopal Church

Presiding Bishop	The Very Rt. Rev. Michael Curry
Diocesan Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Michael Hanley
Bishop-Elect	The Rev. Dr. Diana Akiyama
Vicar	The Rev. Timothy Hannon

Today's worship leaders

Officiant	The Rev. Timothy Hannon
Lector	Bill Henry
Organist	Lisa Crew
Altar Guild	Loralee Henry, Tina Shippey

Today's liturgy is from the Book of Common Prayer.
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