

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025 • 10:30 A.M.



THE HOLY EUCHARIST

RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

VOLUNTARY

Hark, a thrilling voice!

Malcolm Archer

HYMN 76

"On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry"

Winchester New

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

355

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

People **Amen.**

HYMN 444 (a paraphrase of Canticle 4)

"Blessed be the God of Israel"

Thornbury

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Presider Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and the third candle is JOY.

The candles are lit.

Reader Isaiah 55:12 – You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Presider Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete.

People **Amen.**

written by The Rev. Matthew Kozlowski

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

212

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

A moment of silence is observed.

Presider 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.

People Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

A moment of silence follows the reading.

PSALM 146:4-9 (*All sing. Congregation remains seated.*)

Caithness

1. **Happy are they whose hope is in
The God whom Jacob knew;
Who made the heavens, earth, and sea,
Whose promises are true.**
2. **To those oppressed, the LORD our God
Gives justice constantly;
He feeds the hungry and all those
In prison he sets free.**
3. **The LORD lifts up all those bowed down
And gives the blind new sight;
The stranger, widow, fatherless,**

He strengthens by his might.

- 4. God brings the wicked to their doom,
And he will reign always;
From age to age, O Zion, sing
To God unending praise.**

THE SECOND LESSON

James 5:7-10

Reader A Reading from the Letter of James.

⁷ Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

A moment of silence follows the reading.

HYMN 75

"There's a voice in the wilderness crying"

Ascension

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 11:2-11

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED

358

Presider and People

**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.**

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Leader Give us a reverence for the earth as your own creation; that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

A moment of silence is observed.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Guide all bishops, priests, and deacons; especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Sam and Jennifer, our bishops; and Becky, our priest; that those who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

A moment of silence is observed.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Grant wisdom to Donald, our president; Josh, our governor; Sandy, our mayor; and all others who hold authority in the nations of the world; that people everywhere may honor one another and serve the common good.

A moment of silence is observed.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours; that we may serve Christ in them and love one another as God loves us.

A moment of silence is observed.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Watch over those who are preparing for the birth of a child, especially _____; that your presence be revealed through the blessing of new life.

A moment of silence is observed.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or Spirit, especially _____, and others we name now silently or aloud...; that they may have courage and hope in their troubles and know the joy of your salvation.

A moment of silence is observed.

We also pray for Jeanette Belfield, Becky Bryan, Bill Hudgins, Mary Dawson, Albert Ervin, Frances Gaither, Dwight Johnson, Boo White, and Brent Wilson.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Receive with your mercy those who have died, especially _____; that your will for them may be fulfilled and they may share with your saints in your eternal kingdom.

A moment of silence is observed.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader 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; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

360

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A moment of silence is observed.

Presider and People

**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.**

Presider 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.**

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

361

Anthem

Advent Carol

Alfred V. Fedak

Desert, blossom as a rose rising, radiant as it grows, all arrayed in crimson show; Come to us, O God of Hope. Thirsty land, become a stream, flowing fountain, calm, serene, clear cascade from heaven above; Come to us, O God of Love. Alleluia! Weakened hands, be now made strong; Silent tongues, break forth in song; Blinded eyes, your sight employ; Come to us, O God of Joy. Soon a pathway shall be found; for the faithful, holy ground, safe from angry warring beast; Come to us, O God of Peace. Alleluia! Sing God's praise, Jerusalem! Hope, joy, love and peace shall come; Sorrow, sighing now dispel; Come to us, Emmanuel. King of glory, Soul of bliss, Everlasting life is this: Thee to know, Thy power to prove, Thus to sing, and thus to love! Alleluia!

text: Carol McClure (based on Isaiah 35)

HYMN 56 (vs. 1)

"O come, O come, Emmanuel"

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer B)

367

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Presider 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:

HYMNAL S-124

Sanctus

**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.

Presider 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,

Presider and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

Presider 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.

People AMEN.

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

Presider 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

364

After the Presider breaks the consecrated Bread, a moment of silence is observed.

Hymnal S-152

Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover

Presider

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Presider and People

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

364

Presider 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.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

364

Please follow the directions of the usher to the communion rail. After receiving the bread, communicants may receive the wine either by sipping from the chalice or by intinction (i.e. carefully dipping the wafer into the wine). Gluten free wafers are available. For a blessing instead of communion, please cross your arms over your chest as an indication to the priest.

HYMN 60

"Creator of the stars of night"

Conditor alme siderum

VESTRY

Class of 2026
Brenning Daughtridge
Emily Dwight
Britt Myers

Class of 2027
Kenneth Burnette
Barbara Hicks
Jack Miller
John Tobias

Class of 2028
Corey Folta
Heather Seale

Senior Warden Kenneth Burnette
Clerk Gayle Edwards

Junior Warden Emily Dwight
Treasurer Jack Miller

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For pastoral emergencies, please call and leave a message
on Becky's mobile phone: 570-259-0671

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**CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
AND DAY SCHOOL**
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www.goodshepherdrmt.org (252) 442-1134

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. (Holy Eucharist, Rite I)

10:30 a.m. (Holy Eucharist, Contemporary language – livestreamed at goodshepherdlive.org)

Wednesday Service

12:00 p.m. (Holy Eucharist)