



The Third Sunday of Advent Saturday, December 11, 2021

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Opening Hymn “Rejoice! Rejoice, believers”

Hymnal 68

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures for ever.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: 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. *Amen.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES OF ADVENT

Today is the third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Joy.

Our joy is in God and in his son Jesus Christ. Like peace, joy is a gift from God. It overtakes us and fills us when we remember what God has done and what he has promised to do. We light this candle today to remind us that Christ came, and is coming, so that all people might have a rich and abundant life. We thank God for the hope he gives us, for the peace he bestows, and for the joy he pours into our hearts.

Light the first, second and third candles.

Let us pray:

O God of Joy, Emmanuel, send your light into hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for the time of Christ's appearing. Fix our hearts and our minds upon those things you have done and those you have promised to do, that we may have the joy you have promised. As we worship you, strengthen us so that we may always do your will and so bless you and the world you have made. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;
he visits and redeems us, he grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill his promise and bring his people peace.

He from the house of David a child of grace has given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes his herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of Day.

On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
The dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.
He guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease.

THE COLLECT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: 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 LESSONS

The First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Reader: 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146

Reader: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul! *

People: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Reader: Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, *

People: for there is no help in them.

Reader: When they breathe their last, they return to earth, *

People: and in that day their thoughts perish.

Reader: Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *

People: whose hope is in the Lord their God;

Reader: Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *

People: who keeps his promise for ever;

Reader: Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *

People: and food to those who hunger.

Reader: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *

People: the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

Reader: The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; *

People: he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

Reader: The Lord shall reign for ever, *

People: your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

The Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

Reader: 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Hymn "There's a voice in the wilderness crying"

Hymnal 75

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Luke 3:7-18

Narrator: John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him,

John: "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."

Narrator: And the crowds asked him,

Crowds: "What then should we do?"

John: "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."

Narrator: Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him,

Tax Collector: "Teacher, what should we do?"

John: "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you."

Narrator: Soldiers also asked John,

Soldiers: "And we, what should we do?"

John: "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

Narrator: 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,

John: "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."

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

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Laurence K. "Larry" Packard

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant 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.*

THE PRAYERS

Prayers of the People, Form IV

Reader: Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

(Silence)

Reader: Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

(Silence)

Reader: Lord, in your mercy
People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Give us all 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.

(Silence)

Reader: Lord, in your mercy
People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

(Silence)

Reader: Lord, in your mercy
People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

(Silence)

Reader: Lord, in your mercy
People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

(Silence)

Reader: Lord, in your mercy
People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others with a moment of silence.

(Moment of Silence)

Reading of Names

Prayer for Church of Our Redeemer

Celebrant and People: Lord Jesus, we pray that you will give us ears to hear, hearts to love, and wills devoted to serve; that in the days to come this congregation may be known, not for our glory, but for yours alone – a congregation of people who know the Lord; that this place may be an oasis, a place where people come to find out about you, where lives are straightened out and made whole, where people find the peace that passes understanding. Give us, we pray, a heart to desire these things above all else. We pray through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant 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.*

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

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Announcements

The Presentation “Doxology”

Hymnal 380 (vs. 3)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

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:

The Sanctus

Hymnal S-129

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.

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,

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 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 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.*

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

Celebrant 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

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant: 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.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People: 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

Closing Hymn "Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates"

Hymnal 436

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

LET US PRAY

If you have a Prayer Request, please email your request to our Prayer Chair, Bonnie Flippo at msflip925@aol.com. You may also contact the office by email redemeraldie@gmail.com or phone (703) 327-4060. Prayer Requests will be given to the Prayer Team so that they may pray for those in need. If you would like to include their name on our public prayer list, please let us know – only the name will appear on the public prayer list. If your request requires a more private nature, please contact Rev. Larry Packard by email l.packard@verizon.net or phone (703) 425-8315.

“For those whose concerns are known only to God”

All Those Afflicted by the Virus and
Those Who Care for Them
Tisha Austin
Patrick Farragher
Althea Prins
Fred & John Warren
Stella Waltemeire
The Hollinger Family
Bob Stewart

TJ Hill
Russell & Lula
Candi & Taylor
Gwenivere Black
Evan Hansen
Liam Ferguson
The Pisciotto Family
Church of Our Redeemer
Church of Our Redeemer Vestry Members

Serving Our Country

Amity Hess
All First Responders
All Front Line Workers
All Hospital and Emergency Room Workers

Our Children, Our Schools, Our Neighbors, The Unemployed

O Lord, we come to you on behalf of those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work.
Help us use our public and private wealth that they may find employment
and receive just payment for their labor; this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. *Amen.*