

Welcome to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church!
Second Sunday of Advent—December 5, 2021
Eucharist Service

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE WREATH CANDLES

The Word of God

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Enriching Our Worship

Celebrant Blessed be the One Holy and Living God.
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

SONG OF PRAISE

All Earth is Hopeful

Words & Music: Alberto Taule
Tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall

OPENING COLLECT

The Book of Common Prayer, p.211

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Merciful God, who sent your messengers, the prophets, to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST MESSAGE

Malachi 3:1-4

Lay Leader Let us prepare ourselves to hear the Word of God.
People **Our hearts and minds are open.**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Lay Leader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

#59 – *Hark a Thrilling Voice*

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent
tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861
Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated.

HOMILY

The Reverend Susan Moss

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND BAPTISMAL PROMISES

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Lay Leader Please stand as you are able and join together in affirming our faith.

People **You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are God. We worship you.**

Lay Leader Please turn and face the middle aisle as we make our promises to each other and to God.
Please respond to each promise by saying, "I will with God's help."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jim Friedrich, *Episcopal Cafe*

Lay Leader Please respond to each prayer by humming or quietly singing:

People

Sung response: *O Spirit's Breath of Light*

Jim May

O Spi - rit's Breath of Light be e - ver near. O
Spi - rit's Breath of Light be e - ver near.

Please be seated.

SAINT MARY'S COMMUNITY PRAYERS: CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Everyone is invited to offer concerns and thanksgivings.

Lay Leader O Emmanuel, God-with-us, You show us the face of divinity, and reveal the fullness of our humanity. Come: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become who we are, your faithful and loving people. We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

Enriching Our Worship

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

People **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.**

ABSOLUTION

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

PEACE

Steven Shakespeare

Celebrant May the peace of Christ rule our world and heal our hearts and may His peace be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Eucharistic Prayer

OFFERTORY PRAYER

People **God be in my head and in my thinking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in my heart and in my loving.
God be in my hands and in my giving. Amen.**

We are not passing the offering plates at this time.

You are welcome to place your offering in the plate at the entrance to the sanctuary or make an online offering by pressing the "contribute" button on our website, saintmarysepiscopal.org.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Enriching Our Worship

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts
People **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Celebrant and People
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant and People worshipping virtually

Gracious God, You stand at the door of our hearts and knock. You wait for us and we only can let you in. We believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill us with your presence. Nourish us with your body and unite us in your blood, that we may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

People **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name.
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Please be seated.

COMMUNION HYMN

Your Light Has Come

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Come Light of Lights

Words: Celtic chant of Céile Dé order
Music: Ruth Cunningham

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Steven Shakespeare

Celebrant Let us pray together.
Eternal God, we thank you that in Christ you give yourself into our hands: may we who have tasted life proclaim the coming feast when many will come from east and west, from north and south to greet the Lord of all: we ask this in his name. Amen.

ADVENT BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

#65 – *Prepare the Way O Zion*

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen
Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*,

DISMISSAL

Deacon <Deacon says the words of dismissal.>
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

SOCIAL TIME