



Church of the Advent

The Liturgy of the Word
Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020
10:00 am

PRELUDE - by Bradford Dale

OPENING SENTENCES

Blessed be the one, holy, and living One.
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE
Celebrant and people

I Will Kindle My Fire

ADVENT CHOIR

*I will kindle my fire in the morn of the day,
in the presence of holy angels.
Without malice or jealousy, envy or fear,
without terror of anyone under the sun,
but the Holy Beloved to shield me.
O Holy one, kindle thou here in my heart,
a flame of pure love to my neighbor,
to my foe, to my friend, to my kindred all,
to the brave, to the knave, to the thrall.
O child of the loveliest Mary, from the lowliest thing,
to the Holy Name, the beloved of all.*

THE COLLECT

Celebrant God be with you.
People **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.**

OLD TESTAMENT - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of

the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People

Thanks be to God

PSALM 126

- 1 **W**hen 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.

THE EPISTLE – 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God**

MUSIC

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

ADVENT CHOIR

*My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.*

*My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is his name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.*

*Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied, the rich seem suddenly poor.*

*Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.*

THE GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to 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 me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

People

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

THE SERMON - *The Rev. Jason Oden*

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

The congregation is invited to stand

Officiant **H**oly God, you have spoken through your prophets and called us to make straight the way of the Lord: Visit us with your grace to cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations, as we pray: God has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

Intercessor O God of peace, you have called your people to rejoice always and to pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances: Sanctify your Church and her members that our spirit and soul and body may be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People God has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

Intercessor God of Righteousness and Mercy, you love justice and hate wrongdoing: Guide our leaders and all in authority, that they may bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, repair the ruined cities and cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

People God has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

Intercessor God of Compassion, look upon the needs of the world: Proclaim the year of your favor, and clothe your children with the garments of salvation and the robe of righteousness.

People God has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

Intercessor God of Grace, be among us in this community that we may be a people whom you have sanctified to testify to the light and to become oaks of righteousness.

People God has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

Intercessor Receive our prayers for those for whom we pray in intercession, especially _____. *(Congregation is welcome to add their own petitions.)*

Hear our gratitude as we offer our thanksgivings, especially for _____.
(Congregation is welcome to add their own thanksgivings.)

Comfort all who mourn, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit, as we remember before you those who have died, especially _____.
(Congregation is welcome to add the names of those to remember.)

People God has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

Officiant Loving God, your Advent people look expectantly for the coming of Christ:
As the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in
it to spring up, nurture our prayers and the thoughts of our hearts, that we
may receive with joy the goodness of your strength and live in the power of
the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

Let us confess our sins to God.

Celebrant and 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.**

THE ABSOLUTION

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.**

THE PEACE

 The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**
The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Birthdays and Anniversaries of Weddings and Unions

MUSIC

Lord Speak to Me

ADVENT CHOIR

*Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of thy tone;
as thou hast sought, so let me seek thy erring children lost and lone.*

*O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed thy hungry ones with manna sweet.*

*O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things thou dost impart;
and wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and 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.**

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his Lutheran counterpart Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton welcome congregations and individuals to regularly pray "A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God." This prayer is meant to unite us in common prayer and revive us for common mission, wherever and however we may be gathered.

A PRAYER FOR THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Celebrant and people

**God of all power and love,
we give thanks for your unfailing presence
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.
Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:
a people who pray, worship, learn,
break bread, share life, heal neighbors,
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.
Wherever and however we gather,**

**unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances as you make straight the way of God in our day.

Hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil, that you may be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Do not quench the Spirit, but bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners.

And may the God of peace sanctify you entirely as the divine blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit fills you and empowers you, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

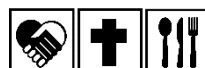
POSTLUDE - by *Bradford Dale*



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