

# THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 13, 2020 10:30 am

Prelude

Improvisation on *Do you hear what I hear?*

Thomas Alexander (b. 1996)

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: O Jesus Christ, Key of David, come and set your people free.  
Open the gates of heaven for us; come, deliver us from evil.

**All: King David was a mighty king who built a city long ago.  
He left a key that Jesus found in the manger hay.  
Key of David, Jesus Christ, open heaven's gates for us.**

*The first, second & third candles are lit.*

Leader: O God, as light comes from this candle, may the blessing of  
Jesus Christ come to us, warming our hearts and brightening our way.

**All: May Christ our Savior bring life into the darkness of this world,  
and to us, as we wait for his coming. Amen.**

## THE OPENING SENTENCE

Book of Common Prayer p. 355

*Celebrant:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***People:* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT OF 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.**

## TRISAGION (Repeat 3x)

Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,  
**Have mercy upon us.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant:* The Lord 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.**

*All sit for the lessons*

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

#### CANTICLE 15

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.

#### SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

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.

The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*All stand, as able*

#### THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6-8,19-28

Priest: 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.  
The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE HOMILY

Fr. Bruce Walker

*Silence may be kept after the homily.*

*All stand, as able*

THE NICENE CREED

**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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM II

*In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.  
Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.  
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.  
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed.  
Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.  
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

Today we prayer especially for **Roscoe, Josephine, Larry, Bill, Gisela, Catherine, James, John, Susan, Betty, Ruth, Corwin, Beth, Janet, Bob, Burtchus, Dickinson, Oscar, Jane, Christine, Sally, Paige, Sherry, Alan, Pam, Elaine, Ricky, Beverly, Lee, Avis, Roger, Kimberly, Missy, Lydia, Mike, the Snelgrove family, Bill, Danielle, Doug, Allison, the Taft family, Rebecca, and all those on our long term prayer list.** Are there others? (Please add the names of others either silently or aloud)

In thanksgiving we pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the coming week, especially **Jill Pickard (13), Carletta Pittman (14), Darlene Geffert (17), Missy Hughes (19), Chuck & Donna Sabolovic (16), Steve & Allison Ross (18).**

We pray for all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad especially those listed on our military prayer list. We pray also for their families, friends, and neighbors who await their safe return.

We pray for our sister church St. Gabriel's. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Church of the Incarnation in Highlands. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Falkland Islands.

We pray for our missionaries and their work in the world, for **Russ and Heidi Smith in Chile, John and Zsófi Wilson in Hungary, Daniel & Rachel Aytes in Thailand, and Jim & Jennifer Bowers in Mali.**

We pray for St. Francis Day School, and for its students and teachers and their families, that they may grow in stature and wisdom, and in the knowledge and love of your grace and truth.

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister 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.**

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. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

**People:** **And also with you.**

*The ministers and people greet each other in the name of the Lord.*

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

THE DOXOLOGY

*As the offering is presented at the altar the people say*

*Celebrant:* All things come of thee, O Lord

**People:** **and of thine own have we given thee.**

HYMN 54

Savior of the nations, come!

Tune: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's  
 2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the  
 3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing  
 4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both  
 Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and  
 his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and  
 sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.  
 king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938) St. 3-4. Copyright ©1982, James Waring McCrady. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524; harm. Melchoir Vulpius (1560?-1616)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - Prayer C

*The people remain standing.*

*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.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us.**

**By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

*The Celebrant continues*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,  
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to pray,

*People and Celebrant*

**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

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People:** Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,  
**have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,  
**have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,  
**grant us thy peace.**

INVITATION TO THE EUCHARIST FOR THOSE AT HOME (may be said during communion)

**In union with the faithful of every generation and especially with those present at Saint Francis Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer my own thanks and praise to You, my Lord and my God. I present my mind, soul and body towards heaven with the earnest intention of being present in spirit with those who call You, Lord of all. I remember Your death and resurrection and I await Your coming in glory. I unite myself with those gathered at your altar and embrace You with all my heart, knowing that nothing can ever separate Your love from me. May I live, move and have my being in Your loving presence. Amen** (prayer adapted from the Armed Services Prayer Book by Fr. Walker+)

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Book of Common Prayer p. 365

Let us pray.

*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

THE DISMISSAL

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

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Postlude

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659  
(Tune of Hymn 54, *Savior of the nations, come!*)

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST:

Addison, Zoey, Courtney, Tom, Harper, Emmanuel, Kimberly, Maureen, Edmonds, Diana, Michael, Tony, Becca, Brian.

#### DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

"Do you hear what I hear?"  
said the night wind to the little lamb.  
"Do you see what I see?"  
Way up in the sky, little lamb,  
do you see what I see?"  
A star, a star, dancing in the night,  
with a tail as big as a kite.

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,  
"Do you hear what I hear?"  
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,  
do you hear what I hear?"  
A song, a song high above the trees  
with a voice as big as the sea.

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,  
"do you know what I know?"  
In your palace warm, mighty king  
Do you know what I know?"  
A Child, a Child shivers in the cold.  
Let us bring him silver and gold.

Said the king to the people everywhere,  
"Listen to what I say.  
Pray for peace, people, everywhere.  
Listen to what I say.  
The Child, the Child sleeping in the night  
He will bring us goodness and light."