



# The Third Sunday of Advent

Church of the Holy Comforter – Vienna, Virginia  
The Holy Eucharist Rite II

December 11, 2022 at 9:30 A.M.

*The liturgy follows the Book of Common Prayer, beginning at page 355.*

OPENING VOLUNTARY: Sarabande

Arnold Cooke

## THE ENTRANCE

AT THE PROCESSION, HYMN 76 “On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry”

Winchester New

*Sung by all, standing.*

*Presider* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

*The Presider says 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.**

TRISAGION, HYMNAL, S 102

Alexander Archangelsky

*Sung three times, by all.*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 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.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON *[The people are seated.]*

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus 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. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 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.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 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; 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. 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. 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. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 146:4-9** *Lauda, anima mea*

Plainsong Tone VII.1

*Sung by the choir.*

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous;  
the LORD cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The LORD shall reign for ever, \*  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.  
Hallelujah!

**THE SECOND LESSON**

James 5:7-10

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. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AT THE SEQUENCE, HYMN 75** "There's a voice in the wilderness crying"

*Ascension*

*Sung by all, standing. During the singing of the Sequence Hymn, children through second grade may follow the Dove Cross to Children's Chapel.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 11:2-11

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

**Glorify to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 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. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." 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? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 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.' 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**THE SERMON** The Rev. Jackie Thomson

*A brief period of silence is observed for reflection on the sermon. The people stand for the Creed.*

**THE NICENE CREED** *[Said by all.]*

**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 OF THE PEOPLE** *[All remain standing.]*

*Form V, Book of Common Prayer, p. 389*

*The leader of the Prayers will begin with prayers for the church and the world. Throughout you are invited to add your own petitions either silently or aloud.*

*Intercessor* ...we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*The Intercessor concludes*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

*People* **To you, O Lord our God.**

**THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*The Presider says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *[All kneel in silence.]*

**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 Presider stands and says*

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**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.** *[The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and are then seated.]*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

*The people remain seated while an offering is received to support Holy Comforter's work of sharing God's love with the world. As the offering is brought forward to the altar, all stand.*

**AT THE OFFERTORY, ANTHEM: "Hark, the glad sound"**

H. Walford Davies

Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let every heart prepare a throne,  
And every voice a song!

He comes, the prisoners to release  
In Satan's bondage held;  
The gates of brass before Him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.

He comes, from thickest films of vice  
To clear the mental ray,  
And on the eyeballs of the blind  
To pour celestial day.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace  
To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad Hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
 Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
 And Heaven's eternal arches ring  
 With Thy beloved Name.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Prayer A, Book of Common Prayer, p. 361*

*Celebrant*                      *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*

Lift up your hearts. 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.

*The Presider proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. *[The Presider continues.]*

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:

SANCTUS, HYMNAL, S 124  
*Sung by all.*

David Hurd

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and  
 earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Presider continues and gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ and prays over the bread and wine.*

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

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

*The Presider continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

*Celebrant*                      *People*

A - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Presider* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
*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, HYMNAL, S 151  
*Sung by all, as indicated.*

Tonus peregrinus

*Cantor*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*All*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Cantor*

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us

*All*

keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

INVITATION [*The People are seated.*]

*As Jesus welcomed all to his table, so do we at Holy Comfoter. The bread and the wine are the central symbols of God's presence and we invite you to share in the Eucharist in whatever way feels comfortable to you, regardless of age or tradition. We also offer gluten-free bread and unfermented grape juice as alternatives—just let the priest know. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms in front of your chest. The Holy Eucharist is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, a mutual indwelling of Christ in us and us in him. Come to the table and be joined into Christ's ministry of love and reconciliation.*

COMMUNION MUSIC [*Sung by all.*]

HYMN 640 "Watchman, tell us of the night"

*Aberystwyth*

HYMN 63 (stanzas 1-4) "O heavenly Word, eternal Light"

*Verbum supernum prodiens*

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER [*Said by all.*]

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

AT THE CLOSING, HYMN 724 [*green hymnal*] "People, look East"  
*Sung by all, standing.*

*Besaçon Carol*

DISMISSAL [*The people respond.*]

**Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: Prelude in G Minor

Johann Sebastian Bach