



The Third Sunday of Advent

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

December 17, 2023 at 9:30 A.M.

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY: Echo Fantasia (Dorian)

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

THE ENTRANCE

AT THE PROCESSION, HYMN 74 “Blest be the King whose coming”

Valet will ich dir geben

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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 126 *In convertendo*

Tone I.1

Sung by the choir.

- 1 When 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 SECOND LESSON

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AT THE SEQUENCE, HYMN 70 “Herald, sound the note of judgment”

Herald, Sound

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

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

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.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Rev. Jon C. Strand

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: "Zion, at thy shining gates"

Zion, at thy shining gates,
Lo, the King of Glory waits,
Haste thy monarch's pomp to greet,
Strew thy palms before his feet.

Christ, for thee their triple light,
Faith and hope and love unite;
This the beacon we display
To proclaim thine advent day.

Come, and give us peace within,
Loose us from the bands of sin,
Take away the galling weight
Laid on us by Satan's hate.

Give us grace thy yoke to wear,
Give us strength thy cross to bear,
Make us thine in deed and word,
Thine in heart and life, O Lord.

George Guest

So, when thou shalt come again,
 Judge of angels and of men,
 We with all thy saints shall sing
 Alleluias to our King.

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

David Hurd

Sung by all.

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 Communion. 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 724 [green hymnal] "People, look East"

Besançon Carol

HYMN 640 "Watchman, tell us of the night"

Aberystwyth

SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Presider In the name of God and of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People **We who are many are one body because we share one bread, one cup.**

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 76 "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry"

Winchester New

Sung by all, standing.

DISMISSAL [The people respond,]

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: Prelude in G Minor

Johann Sebastian Bach