



The Third Sunday of Advent

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

December 15, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY: Ruhig bewegt *from Sonate II*

Paul Hindemith

THE ENTRANCE

AT THE PROCESSION, HYMN 59 “Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding”

Merton

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.*]

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when

I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 9 The First Song of Isaiah *Ecce, Deus*
Sung by the choir.

Tone VII.3

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

Luke 3:7-18

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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: "How Lovely are the Messengers"

Felix Mendelssohn

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace!
To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words,
throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Prayer A, Book of Common Prayer, p. 361

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 God 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 musical score consists of four staves. The first staff is for the Cantor, with the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The second staff is for All, with the same lyrics. The third staff is for the Cantor, with the lyrics "Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us". The fourth staff is for All, with the lyrics "keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The music is in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat.

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 640 "Watchman, tell us of the night"

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

*Aberystwyth
Winchester New*

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 481 "Rejoice, the Lord is King"
Sung by all, standing.

to the tune *Darwall's 148th* (Hymn 625)

DISMISSAL [*The people respond,*]

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: Prelude and Fugue in E Minor

Johann Sebastian Bach