

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2019

8:15 a.m.



HOLY EUCHARIST

RITE II

As the Ministers enter, all stand.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

Celebrant Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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.

People **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 212

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **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 forever.

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING

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 travelers, 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.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM*Read responsively by half verse*

Psalm 146:4-9

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 strangers; *
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!

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, 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.

People **Thanks be to God.****GOSPEL**

Matthew 11:2-11

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*People* **Glory 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.

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

The Rev. Emily Williams Guffey

CREED

paraphrase of the Nicene Creed by Timothy Dudley-Smith

Celebrant Let us profess our faith.

All **We believe in God the Father, God almighty,
by whose plan earth and heaven sprang to being, and all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Savior, Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary upon whom the Spirit came.
Christ, who on the cross forsaken, like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate. He descended to the dead.
We believe in Jesus risen, heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended till as judge he comes again.**

We believe in God the Spirit.

We believe in one Church, below, above:

saints of God in one communion, one in holiness and love.

**So by faith, our sins forgiven, Christ our Savior, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory to the life that knows no end.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

adapted from *Common Worship*, Church of England

Reader In joyful expectation, let us pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge. We pray for this church and all churches in this diocese. We pray for Wendell our bishop; Bonnie our bishop-elect; Emily, David, and Anthony our priests; and Chip who was made a deacon yesterday. Give us a longing for your kingdom.

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Reader Come to your world as King of the nations. We pray for the United States, especially for Donald our President, Gretchen our governor, and Michael our mayor. Before you, O Christ, rulers will stand in silence.

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Reader Come to the suffering as Savior and comforter. We pray for **Cordelia Brown, Jocelyn Burrell, Margie Deeb, Elaine Gregersen, Emily Hill, Joe Miller, Gus Mondalek, Pamla Moore, Carl Pfadt, Len St. Jean, Esther Tietz, Teresa Wakeen, Carol Ann Watson, & Megan White.**
(*People add names silently or aloud.*) Strengthen us whenever we struggle, and set us free to serve you.

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Reader Come to us as Shepherd of our souls. We pray for those who have died, especially those we now name. (*People add names silently or aloud.*)

Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death.

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Reader Come to us as our heart's desire. With angels who announce your coming, we celebrate those having birthdays this week: **Grace Brandon, Iain Mason, Sue Russell** (*People add names silently or aloud.*)
Lead us into the joy of love unknown.

Celebrant Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **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.**

ABSOLUTION

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vestry Representative

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

BCP 376

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

AT THE PRESENTATION

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord;

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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:

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.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BCP 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

BLESSING

Celebrant May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always.

People **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Douglas Leonard Esse in observance of the forty days since his passing by his wife, Rosemary, and family.

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S LITURGY

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Emily Williams Guffey, <i>Rector</i>
<i>Deacon</i>	The Rev. Deacon George Lane "Chip" Dischinger III
<i>Lector & Eucharistic Minister</i>	Letha Ann Steward
<i>Usber</i>	Phil Brown
