



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II  
DECEMBER 14, 2025  
11:00AM

*Quiet in the nave before the service helps us to mark sacred space and time.  
We invite you to use this time to prayerfully prepare for worship.  
Please remember to silence your cell phone.*

**Voluntary**

*Prelude on 'Veni Emmanuel'*

Edward Bairstow

**The Word of God**

**Hymn 76**, *Standing, sung by all*

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry* WINCHESTER NEW

**The Opening Acclamation**

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

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

**Kyrie S94**, *Sung by all*

Plainsong

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

**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.**

**The First Reading**, *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.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle 15, S393,** *The cantor will sing the Antiphon once, then all repeat the Antiphon again.*

*Tone V.1*



1. My soul doth magnify the Lord; and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
2. For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden. **Antiphon**
3. For behold from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.
4. For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.
5. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. **Antiphon**
6. He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
7. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. **Antiphon**
8. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.
9. He rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
10. As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever. **Antiphon**

## 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.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*During the sequence hymn, children aged 4 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade are  
invited to follow the children's cross out to Children's Chapel.  
Parents are always welcome to attend. All will return during the Peace.*

**The Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 11:2-11**

*Gospeler* 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."

*Gospeler* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

The Rev. Rose Veal Eby

**The Nicene Creed**

358

**The Prayers of the People, Form I, *Standing or kneeling***

383

**The Confession and Absolution, *Standing or kneeling***

360

**The Peace, *Standing***

## The Holy Communion

**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,  
through out all the lands their glad tidings.  
—Romans 10:15, 18

**Presentation Hymn 68, st. 3, *Standing, sung by all***      LLANGLOFFAN  
Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, thou Sun so longed for, above  
this darkened sphere! With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day  
of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!

**The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer C, *Standing***      369

*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.**

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

*People*        **Glory to you forever and ever.**

*Celebrant*    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.

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

*Celebrant*    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.

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

*Celebrant*    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.

*People*        **By his blood, he reconciled us.  
By his wounds, we are healed.**

*Celebrant* 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 S122, *Sung by all***

Plainsong

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.

*Standing or kneeling*

*Celebrant* 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:

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

*Celebrant* 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.

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

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

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

**The Lord's Prayer, *Said by all***

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**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.**

**Agnus Dei S160, *Sung by all***

Plainsong

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

**The Invitation to Communion**

*Regardless of the denomination of your baptism, you are invited to receive Holy Communion in the Episcopal Church. If you would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. If you are interested in being baptized please speak with a clergy person after the service or contact the church office. Gluten free wafers available upon request.*

**Music during Communion**

*Advent Prose: Rorate caeli*

*Antiphon: Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

1. Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity forever:

thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:  
our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee. [Ant.]

2. We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf:  
and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away:

thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. [Ant.]

3. Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen:  
that ye may know me and believe me:

I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour:  
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. [Ant.]

4. Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry:

I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions:

Fear not, for I will save thee:

For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer. [Ant.]

—7th century Latin

**Hymn 271**

*The great forerunner of the morn* UT QUEANT LAXIS

*When Lay Eucharistic Visitors are sent forth to take communion to the sick or homebound, the following is offered:*

*Celebrant* We 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 all share one bread, one cup.**

**The Postcommunion Prayer** *Said by all, standing or kneeling*

366

*Celebrant* 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**

**Hymn 72**, *Standing, sung by all*

*Hark the glad sound!* RICHMOND

**The Dismissal**

*The Deacon offers a dismissal followed by:*

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

**Voluntary**

*Prelude-Improvisation on 'Veni Emmanuel'*

Arthur Egerton

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and  
in loving memory of John H. McLain IV by John and Wimberly Watts.*

**CELEBRANT** The Rev. Michael Goldsmith

**PREACHER** The Rev. Rose Veal Eby

**ASSISTING** The Rev. Dr. Melissa M. Hartley

**DEACON** The Rev. Dn. Dr. Robert A. Serio

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC** Dr. Aaron Tan



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