

# The Third Sunday of Advent

## December 13, 2020

### Morning Prayer



#### Lighting of the Advent Candle: *The Wonder of the Message*

Reader: During Advent we listen for the wonder of God's Word.

**C: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.**

Reader: During Advent we reach beyond the noise and distractions of this world.

**C: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.**

Reader: During Advent we ponder the good news that is our great joy.

**C: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.**

Reader: During Advent we speak words of hope to those engaged in life's struggles

**C: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.**

Reader: During Advent we offer words of peace to those overcome by life's fears.

#### *Candle Lighting:*

Today we light the three candles. The **first candle** calls us to behold the wonder of the season in a fresh way. In a world where too often the familiar becomes commonplace, Advent is a time to ponder themselves of God's amazing love. The **second candle** invites us to hear again the ancient prophecies that, like flames in the darkness, illuminate our world, inspire our faith, and guide our journey. As we light the **third candle**, we affirm that Advent is a time to hear again the still small voice calling us to behold God's promise, and embrace the gift of a Savior who is Christ our Lord.

#### *Blessing:*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness.

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

Strengthen our hearts

as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.

May he give water to all who thirst,

for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

**Amen.**

#### **DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY**

O Lord, open my lips,  
**and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit:**

as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be forever. Amen.

## PSALMODY

The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his wings.  
**Oh, come, let us worship and praise.**

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.  
**In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.  
**O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.  
**O that today you would listen to his voice!**

The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his wings.  
**Oh, come, let us worship and praise.**

**The LORD has done great things for us.** (*Ps. 126:3*)

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**  
**Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,**  
**like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,**  
**will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

**The LORD has done great things for us.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE:** The Song of Mary Scottish Melody arr. David Haas

VERSES

D G D

1. My \_\_\_\_\_ soul is filled with joy \_\_\_\_\_ as I
2. I am low - ly as a child, \_\_\_\_\_ but I
3. I pro - claim the pow'r of God, \_\_\_\_\_ you do
4. To the hun - gry you give food, \_\_\_\_\_ send the
5. In your love you now ful - fill \_\_\_\_\_ what you

G D G D

1. sing to God my sav - ior: you have looked up \_\_\_\_\_ on your
2. know from this day for - ward that my name will be re -
3. mar - vels for your ser - vants; though you scat - ter the proud
4. rich a - way \_\_\_\_\_ emp - ty. In your mer - cy you are
5. prom - ised to your peo - ple. I will praise you, Lord, my

Bm Bm7/A G Em

1. ser - vant, you have vis - it - ed your peo - ple.
2. mem - bered, for \_\_\_\_\_ all will call me bless - ed.
3. heart - ed and de - stroy the might of princ - es.
4. mind - ful of the peo - ple you have cho - sen.
5. sav - ior, ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy.

REFRAIN

Em D G D G

Melody

And \_\_\_\_\_ ho - ly is your name through \_\_\_\_\_ all gen - er -

D G D Bm Bm7/A

a - tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy to the

G Em D G

peo - ple you have cho - sen, and \_\_\_\_\_ ho - ly is your

D G D

name. (Keybd)

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## READINGS

### First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

<sup>1</sup>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;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>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.

### Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>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.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

## SERMON – The Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy

### HYMN OF THE DAY – There's a voice in the wilderness crying



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a\_\_\_\_  
2 O\_\_\_\_ Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee  
3 but the word of our God\_\_\_\_ en - du - reth, the\_\_\_\_



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst\_\_\_\_ of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The\_\_\_\_  
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the  
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
flowers of the field they per - ish, like  
feed his flock like a shep - herd, the

lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of  
lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll

pla - ces where the Lord our God may go!  
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way;  
lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,  
**but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.**

## **GOSPEL CANTICLE**

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets he promised of old  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us.**

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
to give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God,  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

## **PRAYERS**

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

Let us pray.

*A brief silence for prayer follows each petition.*

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . .

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .

for the gifts of relationship with others . . .

for the communion of faith in your church . . .

*Other thanksgivings may be added.*

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

for those who govern nations of the world . . .

for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .

for all who work for peace and international harmony . . .

for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction . . .

for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .

*Other intercessions may be added.*

Almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome in adversity. In all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our life and actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
✠ now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God bless us and direct our days and our deeds in peace. Amen.

## Song – On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of a series of chords and single notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with numbers 1 through 5 indicating different verses. The lyrics are: 1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - ; 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make ; 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our ; 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and ; 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose



1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -  
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we  
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.  
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

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