



# Grace Episcopal Church

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

Morning Prayer, Rite 2

Book of Common Prayer

## GREETING

## PRELUDE

*My Soul, Gives Glory to My God (Song of Mary) - setting by P. Manz*

## OPENING SENTENCE

*“Be joyful in the Lord all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song”*

*~ Psalm 100: 1~*

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

**Pg. 79**

*The Officiant says to the people.*

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*Silence may be kept.*

## CONFESSION

*Officiant and People together,*

**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 ABSOLUTION

**Pg. 80**

Almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

## INVITATORY AND PSALTER

**Pg. 80**

*Officiant:* Lord open our lips.

*People:* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**GLORIA (All) Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**ANTIPHON Our King and Savior now draws near:  
Come let us adore Him.**

**A SONG FOR THE MORNING: PSALM 67:1-5**

**Pg. 675**

May God, be merciful to us and bless us,  
show us the light of your countenance and come to us.  
Let your ways be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the nations upon earth.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
The earth has brought forth her increase;  
May God, our own God, give us his blessing.  
May God give us his blessing;  
And may all the earth stand in awe of Him.

**ANTIPHON Our King and Savior now draws near:  
Come let us adore Him.**

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

*Variation IV from "Magnificat in G" - A. Guilmant*

**PSALM 126**

**Pg. 782**

<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.**

<sup>3</sup> Then they said among the nations,  
"The LORD has done great things for them."

<sup>4</sup> **The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.**

<sup>5</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses of the Negev.

<sup>6</sup> **Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.**

<sup>7</sup> Those who go out weeping, carrying the  
seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their  
sheaves.

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

**A READING FROM 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people: **Thanks be to God.**

**A TIME OF SILENCE/A TIME FOR LISTENING**

*a bell will ring the beginning and ending*

**SECOND READING: 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church: **Thanks be to God.**

**CANTICLE 15 ~ *The Song of Mary***

*In Unison*

**Pg. 91-2**

## READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

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.

Hear what the Holy Spirit is Saying to the Church: **Thanks be to God.**

### MUSICAL MEDITATION

*On Jordan's Bank* - M. Burkhardt

### THE HOMILY

*The Rev. M. Alton Plummer*

### A TIME OF SILENCE/A TIME FOR LISTENING

*a bell will ring the beginning and ending*

### THE APOSTLE'S CREED

**Pg. 96**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER *traditional*

**Pg. 97**

### SUFFRAGES "A"

**Pg. 97-8**

### THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

**Pg. 212**

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.**

O God, the creator and preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech you for all sorts and conditions of we, *your people*; that you would be pleased to make your ways known to them, your saving health to all nations.

More especially we pray for your holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by your good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life.

Finally, we commend to your fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; especially ...

**ALL OF US WHO HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 VIRUS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND THOSE WHO MOURN.**

*Silence*

**AND FOR THE FOLKS ON OUR PRAYER LIST ...**

for those who are traveling, especially **Josey** Parker and **Cameron** Klass

and those with special needs:

**Jan** Greer, **Mark** Adkins, **Chris** Alexander, **Cora** Alexander, **Amanda** Amon, **Ella** Asebes, **Barbara** Beck, **Alice** Brandon & family, **Baylee** Brown, **Andrea** Cain, **Russell** Cinque, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Morgan** Curia, **Barbara** Dixon, **Johanna** Dresser, **Mike** Egan, **Aubrie** Gallen, **Shana** Garland, **Frances** Garner, **Marlon** Gaskins, **Susan** Gibson, **Jane** Grimes, **George** Hanna, **Rob** Hare, **Kristen** Harris, **Elizabeth** Harvey, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Chris and Mike** Hodges, **Will** Holmes, **Jon** Huff, **Nancy** Hutchins, **Brinkley** Johnson, **Anne** King, **Lindsay** Layfield, **Lynn** Mack, **Carol** May, **Kate** McKenzie, **Nicholas** Melomo, **Molly** Michael, **Roan** Mitchell, **O'Lema** Morgan, **Kathie and Scott** Nelson, **Page** Onorato, **Lynn** Parsley, **Gabby** Plott, **Jacklyn** Rojas, **Suzy** Sheets, **Talmadge** Silversides, **Amy** Burkhart Smith, **Dan Griff** Smith, **Martha Ellen** Smith, **Sean** Sullivan, **Clarice and Henry** Surratt, **Robin** Tilley, **Jackie** Touchton, **Toni** Underwood, **Frances** Welch, **Courtney** Weller, **Susan** Whetmore, **Bill** Whitehurst, **Flynn** Williams, and **Charlotte** Young.

✦ *At this time you may offer your prayers in the comments bar on Facebook so that we may pray with you through the week.*

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

*Meditation on "Veni, Emmanuel" - J. Schriveyner*

*The Collect Concludes:*

Loving God, may please you to comfort and relieve all those whom we lift up to you today, including ourselves, according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us.  
We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation,  
for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends,  
and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts,  
and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures  
that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ;  
for the truth of his Word and the example of his life;  
for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation;  
for his dying, through which he overcame death;  
and for his rising to life again,  
in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit,  
that we may know him and make him known;  
and through him, at all times and in all places,  
may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

DISMISSAL      Let us bless the Lord.      *Thanks be to God!*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:  
Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and  
ever. **Amen.**                      ~Ephesians 3:20,21

POSTLUDE

*Tell Out, My Soul - P. Manz*