

# THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

## ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M.  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024



## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome to St. John's! We invite you to help create the experience of silence before our service. Our hope is to calm our hearts as we prepare to enter into an intensity of shared presence. To ensure newcomers feel welcomed, position prompts are provided throughout our bulletins. If standing or kneeling is uncomfortable for you, please know it is fine to remain seated.

**Prelude**      **Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland**

**J.S. Bach**

*All rise at the sound of the church bell.*

**Hymn 59, standing**      **Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding**

**MERTON**

*Presider*      Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

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 S-102**      *Holy God*

**A. Archangelsky**

*Sung 3 times*

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line in G major with lyrics: "Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y," and a piano accompaniment. The second system has a vocal line with lyrics: "Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us." and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a steady accompaniment of chords and moving lines.

### **The Collect of the Day**

*Presider*      God be with you.

*People*      **And also with you.**

*Presider*      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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

*You may be seated.*

### **The First Lesson: 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.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

*The Canticle is sung by the choir.*

**Canticle 9**

*Ecce Deus*

**The First Song of Isaiah**

*Isaiah 12:2-6*

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.  
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.

**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.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

**Hymn 54, standing** Savior of the nations, come

**NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 3:7-18, standing**

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

*People* **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.

*Presider* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

*Silence and stillness are kept after the sermon.*

**The Rev. Carol Gadsden**

**The Nicene Creed, standing**

**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 worshipped 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.

**Prayers of the People Form III, *standing***

**BCP Pg. 387**

*Intercessor* Let us pray.  
Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

*People* **That we all may be one.**

*Intercessor* Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

*People* **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

*Intercessor* We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

*People* **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

*Intercessor* We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

*People* **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

*Intercessor* Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

*People* **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

*Intercessor* Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief, sickness or trouble; we pray for  
Amanda Archangelo, Jinny Buracchi, Connie Cliffe, Tim Connelly, Tony Custodio, Roger  
Deakin, James Gadsden, Melvin Gillis, Raymond Guarino, Nancy Gould, Erna Jensen,  
Vicki Morrison, Gianna Porcelli, Marguerite Quigley, Dorothy Rider, Philip Trudell,  
Chantal Volcy, and those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts

*People* **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

*Intercessor* Give to the departed eternal rest;  
*People* **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*Intercessor* We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*People* **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

*Intercessor* Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.  
*The People may add their own petitions.*

*Intercessor* Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

### **Confession of Sin**

*Presider* Let us confess our sins to God.  
*The people kneel as able. A moment of reflective silence is kept.*

*People* **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.**

*Presider* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **The Peace, standing**

*Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you!

*People* **And also with you!**

*Then the ministers and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **The Blessing of the Giving Tree Gifts, standing**

Grant, gentle God, that your Spirit may give us the will and the courage to act to make a difference in order to make real your kingdom among us so that we may all live together in peace, truth, justice, and love, sharing the resources of the earth. Bless these gifts, given out of abundance so that others may share in the joy of this season. **Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## Offertory Sentence

*Presider* Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

*The congregation's offering for the mission and ministry of the church is received. Please be seated.*

## Anthem      A tender shoot

O. Goldschmidt

*A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace, as ancient seeds imparted from Jesse's holy race: It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter, turning our darkness into light. This shoot Isaiah taught us, from Jesse's root should spring; The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing; Our God of endless might gave her this child to save us, Thus turning darkness into light.*

## Presentation, standing

*The congregation's gifts of bread, wine, and money are presented and placed on the Holy Table. Weekly donations to the Shoreline Pantry are placed before the Altar.*

## The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

*Presider*      The Lord be with you.

*People*      **And also with you.**

*Presider*      Lift up your hearts.

*People*      **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider*      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*      **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every- where to give thanks to you, Father 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:

## Sanctus      from Missa De Sancta Maria Magdalena

H. Willan

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - - ly, Lord God of power and might,  
Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he that comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people stand or kneel, as the Presider continues*

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 for the 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Presider and People*

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

*The Presider continues*

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 John the Baptist and 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 Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*Presider*           And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**The Lord's Prayer, said by 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**



**Fraction Anthem**      *from Missa De Sancta Maria Magdalena*

**H. Willan**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: -

have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the

world: - grant us peace.

**The Invitation to Communion**

*Presider*      The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy things for holy people.

*All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. For a blessing, place your hands across your chest. Gluten-free bread is available for those requiring it. Please indicate this by holding one arm across your chest. If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher or someone nearby to request that communion be brought to you.*

**Hymn 69**      **What is the crying at Jordan?**

**ST. MARK'S, BERKELEY**

**The Prayer after Communion, standing**

*Presider*      Let us pray.

*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.**

**Sending of Eucharistic Visitors, as requested**

**The Blessing, standing**



**Advent Lessons and Carols**  
**Sunday, December 15 at 5:00 p.m.**

As we enter the season of Advent, we look forward to annual traditions that help us anticipate the birth of the Christ Child. One such tradition is the beautiful service of Advent Lessons and Carols. This service is intended to prepare and focus us on the expected coming of Christ rather than the celebration of Christmas. Advent Lessons and Carols includes choral music, hymns, voluntaries, and anthems interspersed between scripture. It is part of our Anglican tradition celebrated around the world during this season.

We look forward to a beautiful candlelit service of scripture and song and hope this time will bring you a sense of God's love and presence this Advent season. Directly following the service, join us in the Parish Hall for a festive reception.

**Bible Study on Tuesdays at St. John's**  
**Preparing for Christmas: Tuesday, December 17 — 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall**

Join Wilk Miller as we prepare for Christmas. It is said that a dysfunctional family is where there is more than one person in it. On December 10, we will explore Jesus' peculiar family tree and explore whether such an exploration might help us as we look at our own families. On December 17, we will look at those Christmas creches in many of our homes and see how different traditions are blended together to make make them seamless and wonderful.

**Tuesday, December 17**  
"Your Bethlehem Manger at Home: Wise Men or Shepherds?"  
Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:1-20

**Tuesday Bible Study will take a two week hiatus December 24 and December 31. Join us again in the New Year on January 7, 2025!**

**Advent Evening Prayer**  
**Thursday, December 19 at 6:00 p.m.**

The Advent season is a time of hopeful anticipation and waiting. This Thursday evening is an opportunity to step outside of the busyness of the season and into a space of calm reflection. This service of Evening Prayer includes candlelight and is led by parishioners who preside.

**Prayer List**

As we transition into a new season, we are refreshing the names included in our Prayers of the People. If you notice that a family member or friend's name is no longer listed, please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Office (860-767-8095 or [chelsea@stjohnsessex.org](mailto:chelsea@stjohnsessex.org)) to have their name added back to our prayers. We are grateful for the opportunity to hold your loved ones in prayer and encourage you to reach out with any updates or additions.

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**CLERGY & PARISH STAFF**

The Rev. Carol Gadsden, *Interim Co-Pastor*  
[carol@stjohnsessex.org](mailto:carol@stjohnsessex.org) / 860-767-8095 x.12

The Rev. Wilk Miller, *Interim Co-Pastor*  
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Chelsea DiDonato, *Communications Director & Parish Administrator*  
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Anthony Pandolfe Jr., *Director of Music & Organist*  
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Meghan Wrinn, *Program & Events Coordinator*  
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Manuel Matute, *Sexton*  
Dayle Larson, *Bookkeeper*

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**VOLUNTEER MINISTRY LEADERS**

Nancy Haslam, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*  
Marlene Going, *Weekly Food Collection*  
Stephanie Patterson, *Altar Guild*  
Peggy Tuttle, *Pastoral Care Card Ministry*  
Jennifer Miller, *Meal Ministry*  
Ernie Brainard, *Candle Master*  
Paulette Rider, *Outreach Committee*  
Jan Perruccio, *Newcomers Committee*

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**VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS**

Bill Scharfenstein, *Building and Grounds*  
Greg Perruccio, *Stewardship Chair*  
Dave Rogers, *Treasurer*  
Clio Coles, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Shawn Honan, *Investment Oversight Committee*

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**VESTRY** Scott Konrad, *Warden*; Sandy Loether, *Warden*; Anne Littlefield, *Vestry Clerk*;  
Dave Rogers *Treasurer*; Carol Beisser, Lois Blood Bennett, Tony Custodio, Nat Eddy,  
Wesley Henry, Stephanie Patterson, Patti Pickering, Rob van der Horst,  
Kevin Walsh

**WORSHIP**

**SUNDAYS** | Holy Eucharist — 8:00 & 10:15 a.m.

**TUESDAYS** | Bible Study — 10:00 a.m.

**WEDNESDAYS** | Midweek Holy Eucharist — 12:00 p.m.

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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