



St. Francis' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 12, 2021

PRELUDE

GATHERING HYMN THERE'S A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS CRYING

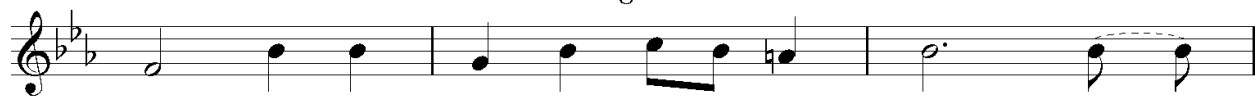
H 75



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.

THE ADVENT BIDDING

Presider Light and peace in Christ Jesus our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**

Presider Dear friends in Christ, as we travel towards Bethlehem in this journey of Advent, we come together in the midst of a busy season to take a breath. To slow down as we anticipate Jesus' coming once more into the world. We are invited for a time to breathe in together the life that God gives us; to listen for the beating of God's heart and the blessings and lessons this season brings. As we gather for this time of worshipful anticipation let us in the silence rest in God's presence.

A prolonged silence is kept.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Presider May Christ, the One whose coming we await, fill our homes and hearts with joyful anticipation as we journey to the manger. Amen.

The candle of this third week of Advent is a candle of JOY. Today the flame of this candle reminds us of the joy that Jesus brings into this world and his presence with us. Jesus said "Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete."

As the candles are lit, we sing:

Light one candle for hope. One bright candle for hope.
He brings hope to every heart, He comes, He comes.

Light one candle for peace. One bright candle for peace.
He brings peace to every heart, He comes, He comes.

Light one candle for joy. One bright candle for joy.
Every nation will find salvation in Bethlehem's baby boy.

Once the candles are lit, the Presider continues.

Presider Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth as a burning and shining light. May we your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming kingdom, Jesus our Savior and Sovereign of the ages. Amen.

THE GREETING

Presider Blessed be the Holy One whose coming we await,

People **And blessed be the One who comes to set all people free. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider 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, so that we may truly love you, and worthily praise your holy name; through our Savior Jesus Christ.

People Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Silence is kept for a time.

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 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 us in eternal life.

People Amen.

THE COLLECT

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with wonder and awe come among us; and, because our sins hold us back, let your generous grace and mercy quickly 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.

Presider Amen.

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST READING

Reader A reading from the book of Zephaniah.

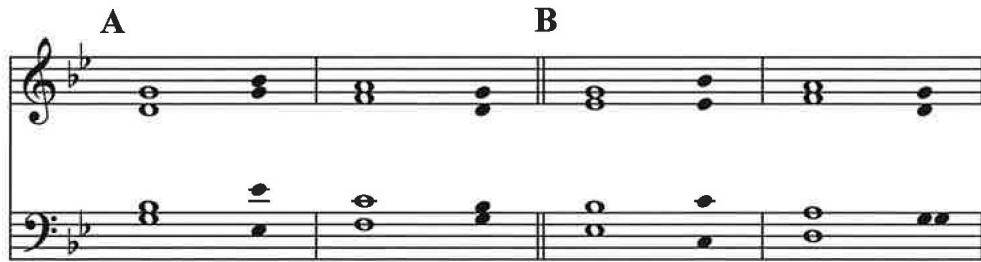
3:14-20

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 9



- 1 Surely, it is God who / saves me;
I will trust in him and not be a/fraid.
- 2 For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure de/fense,
and he will be my / Savior.
- A 3 Therefore you shall draw water with re/joicing
from the springs of sal/vation.
- A 4 And on that day you shall / say,
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his / Name;
- B 5 Make his deeds known among the / peoples;
see that they remember that his Name is ex/alted.
- 6 Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done / great things,
and this is known in all the / world.
- 7 Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your / joy,
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of / Israel.

THE SECOND READING

Reader A reading from the letter to the 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ANTIPHON

H83

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

For he alone is worthy,
For he alone is worthy,
For he alone is worthy, Christ, the Lord.

THE GOSPEL

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

3:7-18

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

LAUREN VERSEMAN

THE ADVENT CREED

Our Advent Creed seeks to affirm our trust in God found in Jesus Christ.

Presider Let us stand and affirm our hope in the light of Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God?

People **We believe in God, eternal, almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Presider Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ?

People **We believe in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of all, the Only Begotten One; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, lived and loved among us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; who descended to the dead, and on the third day rose again; Jesus, Our Savior, ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of the loving God, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Presider Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

People **We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic and apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead, and life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Presider O God whose Messiah's coming we await, keep us awake and alert to watch for the signs of your coming. As the fig tree puts forth its leaves and the portents of the new day dawns, keep us awake and alert for the second advent of Christ our Savior. As we lift our prayers to you and in every moment of our lives may you...

People's response **Shine in our hearts.**

The Presider offers a concluding prayer.

Presider Shine forth O God of Hosts, encourage, embolden and energize your people to keep awake and alert to the coming of Jesus the Christ, that he, at his second Advent, may find us ready to greet him and eager to serve those in need; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We invite you to extend the peace of God to those in the congregation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;
 4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
 4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
 5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935)
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Presider All things come from you, O Lord.

People And of your own have we given you.

EUCCHARIST

At 8:00am, all are invited to gather around the altar now and return to your seat after receiving Communion.

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 thank to the Lord our God.

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

Presider 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:

LEVAS 255

The musical score is written for a choir or congregation, featuring a soprano line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of hosts. Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Presider 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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Presider is to hold it or lay a hand upon it.

Presider 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;**

Presider 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary 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 Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

LEVAS 261

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People 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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Eucharistic bread is gluten-free and nut-free. This Eucharistic table does not belong to the Episcopal Church or to St. Francis'. This is God's table, and all are welcome. In the Episcopal Church, we receive both the bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Jesus.

- 1 Stay awake, (clap, clap) be ready. (clap, clap)
You do not know the hour when the Lord is coming.
Stay awake, (clap, clap) be ready. (clap, clap)
The Lord is coming soon!
Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord is coming soon.
- 2 Change your lives, (clap, clap) he's coming. (clap, clap)
The one who is the light of the world is coming.
Change your lives, (clap, clap) he's coming. (clap, clap)
The reign of God is near!
Alleluia, alleluia!
The reign of God is near.
- 3 Go back, (clap, clap) tell John (clap, clap)
all that you have heard and have seen me doing,
Go back, (clap, clap) tell John (clap, clap)
the wonders that you see.
Alleluia, alleluia!
The wonders that you see.
- 4 By the pow'r (clap, clap) of the Spirit (clap, clap)
Mary will give birth to a son called Jesus.
By the pow'r (clap, clap) of the Spirit (clap, clap)
Emmanuel is near.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Emmanuel is near.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

After all have received communion the Presider says

Presider God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

People **Eternal God, for whom we await, you have fed us with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation: keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

Presider 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 the One, Holy, Undivided Trinity be with you and remain with you always.

People Amen.

SENDING HYMN

WATCHMEN, TELL US OF THE NIGHT

H640

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom - ise
2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high - er yet that star a -
3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn - ing seems to

are. Trav - eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, see that glo - ry -
scends. Trav - eler, bless - ed - ness and light, peace and truth its
dawn. Trav - eler, dark - ness takes its flight, doubt and ter - ror

beam - ing star. Watch-man, does its beau - teous ray
course por - tends. Watch-man, will its beams a - lone
are with - drawn. Watch-man, let thy wan - derings cease;

aught of joy or hope fore - tell? Trav-eler, yes; it
gild the spot that gave them birth? Trav-eler, a - ges
hie thee to thy qui - et home. Trav-eler, lo! the

brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.
are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.
Prince of Peace, lo! the Son of God is come!

Words: John Bowring (1792-1872) Music: *Aberystwyth*, Joseph Parry (1841-1903)

ADVENT DISMISSAL

Presider Our worship is ended, our service in the world begins. As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

