

A Liturgy for Sundays
adapted from a liturgy written by the Right Reverend Deon K. Johnson

The Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020

*You are invited to prepare a sacred space before worship.
You may want to include: a cross, a bible, candles,
an Advent wreath, or any other additional
prayer aids (prayer beads, icons, etc.).*

Prelude

Welcome from the Vicar

Gathering: Liturgy of the Word

*The people of God gather together.
A bell rings out. Silence is kept.*

Opening Hymn

Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding!

H 59

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- pect- 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.

Opening Rite: Liturgy of Light

All stand, and the officiant greets the people with these words.

Officiant: Dear friends in the risen Christ, we gather today to celebrate the Lord's day, and for a time to be united in prayer and praise with each other and those who have gone before us. Sunday has been called the Lord's Day because it was on this day that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life. As we gather, let us be united in the spirit of Christ with the Church around the world and celebrate our redemption in Christ's suffering, death and resurrection.

Officiant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant: It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation — the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Corinthians 4:5-6

The Advent candles are lit in our homes and in our church as we listen to the song "Light One Candle."

Hymn

Light One Candle

Natalie Sleeth

Light one candle for hope,
one bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to ev'ry heart,
He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for peace,
one bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to ev'ry heart,
He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for joy,
one bright candle for joy,
He brings joy to ev'ry heart,
He comes! He comes!

The Confession

As we worship we ask God's forgiveness for things done and things left undone and things done on our behalf so that we are reconciled to God and each other.

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Silence is kept for a time.

Officiant: 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.

People: **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.**

Officiant: For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
People: **That we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Officiant: 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.**

Opening Acclamation

Officiant: Our Savior now draws near.
People: **Come, let us adore him.**

Officiant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires are 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.**

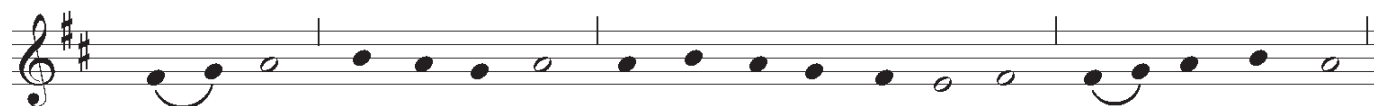
Song of Praise

Gloria in Excelsis

S 277



1. Glo - ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



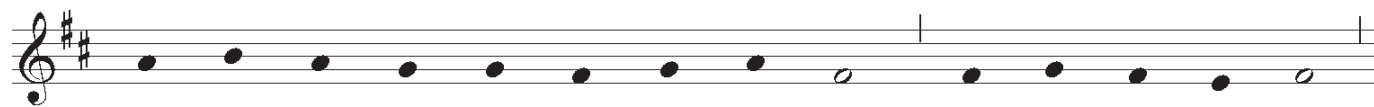
2. Lord God, hea-ven-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you,



we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,



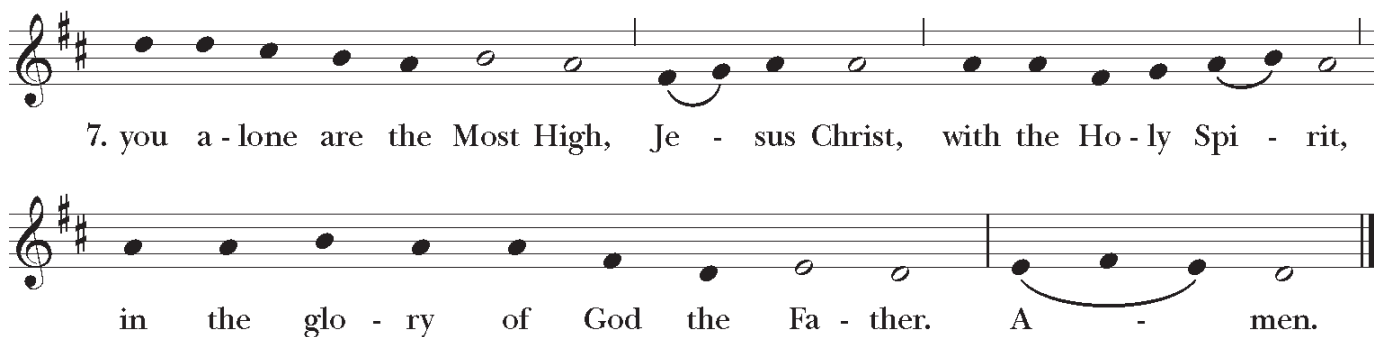
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



4. you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us;



5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



The Collect of the Day

Officiant: God is with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Officiant continues with the prayer appointed for the day called the collect. The collect is written to go along with both the season of the church year and the readings of the day. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scripture of the day.

Officiant: Incline your ear, O God
to our pleading,
and by the grace of your coming to us
enlighten the darkness of our hearts,
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Readings

We hear the stories of the experience of God from our spiritual ancestors. Reading and commenting on scripture goes back to the earliest services of Christianity. Following the pattern of Jewish synagogue worship, readings follow a set pattern for what will be read when.

Reader: A reading from the book of 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
 People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm of the Day

Psalm 126

S 410

The psalms are a part of the poetry of the Hebrew people. They express joy and sadness, loneliness and thanksgiving as part of the human longing to be united with God. Please join in singing with the vocalist.

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



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- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of / Zion,
then were we like those who / dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with / laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of / joy.

- 3 Then they said among the / nations,
 “The Lord has done great things for / them.”
- 4 The Lord has done great things for / us,
 and we are glad in/deed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O / Lord,
 like the watercourses of the / Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with / tears
 will reap with songs of / joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the / seed,
 will come again with joy, shouldering their / sheaves.

The Second Reading

Reader: A reading from the first Letter to the 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Prepare the Way

H 65



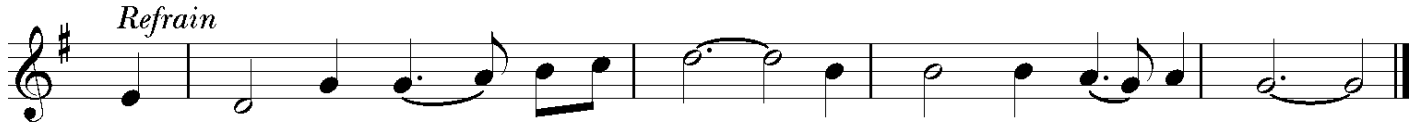
- 1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

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The Gospel

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

1:6-8,19-28

People: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend Laurie Anzilotti

Having someone comment on the Scriptures goes back to the earliest days of Christianity and to the Jewish Synagogue worship which preceded it.

Affirmation of Faith

Originally the entire service was viewed as our confession of faith. However, since the Sixth Century, the church has recited either the Nicene Creed or the Apostle's Creed at the Eucharist. The word creed comes from the Latin credo for "I believe" or "I lend my heart to."

Officiant: Let us affirm our faith.

People: Do you believe in God?
We believe in God the Father the almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Officiant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
People: **We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Officiant: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
People: **We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Prayer changes people. Prayer is not about changing God but about changing us more into the likeness of God. Collectively and individually we offer the hopes and desires of our hearts to God.

Officiant: In hopefulness as we await the coming of Christ, let us offer our thanksgivings and biddings to God, saying: Shine in our hearts.

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to our humble calling to be the church of Christ in the world. Empower all bishops, priests and deacons to proclaim justice and truth as they care for your holy people. We pray for the people and ministry of Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Charles, and Tamsen their rector and Betty their deacon; and for the Bishop of Lui and Archbishop of Amadi Steven Dokolo. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to the needs and wants of the nations of the world. Enlighten the leaders of the nations to attend to the needs of the lowest and the least, the last and the left-out, that justice and peace may be our strength and equity our common good. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to the needs of the sick and suffering. Embolden our love that we may care with compassion for those in need especially Noel, Roger, Ernie, Rosie, Paul, Mary, Max, Ann, the McCart family, and Skip. May they know of the healing love and power of Jesus. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to the needs of friends and strangers. Energize this community of faith to reach out with compassion to transform our neighborhoods and communities to reflect the beloved community of peace. We remember those who have asked for our prayers, Linda Rose, Fr. Al and Deacon Dayna, Melissa, Tony, Glenn and Marie, Sally, Virginia, Steve, Todd, the Franek family, Wayne, Akemie, Will, Cindy, and Jessica. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to those who mourn, those who grieve and those who are despondent or depressed. Enable us to be Christ's hands of healing and wholeness that we may be agents of comfort and hope. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to the shortness of our time. Enfold those who have ended their course on earth and have joined the martyrs and saints in the region of light, especially parishioner Jack Doerr, and Cyndie Crawford. May we, in our own time, come to the joys of your eternal reign. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: At this time, I bid your intercessions and prayers of thanksgiving, either silently or aloud.

For all who are viewing virtually, you will be "unmuted" at this time to offer your biddings of joy, concern, or thanksgiving. If you are viewing on Facebook, please considering entering them in the comments.

Officiant: O God, 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.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant: Let us pray in the way that Christ taught us.

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Officiant: God of all creation, rekindle within us this Sabbath day the vision of your kingdom so that our daily concerns and labor may find their proper perspective.

People: **Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel and give us the grace to see the face of Christ in the people with whom we live. We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God; that we who have celebrated Christ's resurrection this day share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace

Officiant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of God With Us, the Christ.

Announcements

Closing Hymn

Longing for Light

MHSO 59

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone has
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see. _____
pow - er to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice. _____
to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come. _____

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gath - ered to - day. _____

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The Sending

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

People: **Amen.**

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer Lists

Our homebound parishioner: Noel

Our parishioners: Roger, Ernie, Rosie, Paul, Mary, Max, Ann, McCart family, and Skip

For those who have asked for prayers: For Linda Rose, Fr. Al & Deacon Dayna, Melissa, Tony, Glenn and Marie, Sally, Virginia, Todd, the Franek family, Wayne, Akemie, Will, Cindy, and Jessica ; first responders, healthcare professionals, and educators who continue to work during this pandemic; medical researchers searching for a vaccine for COVID-19

For those who have died and those who mourn: For parishioner Jack Doerr, who died November 27; for Cyndie Crawford, friend of Barb Sacco, who died December 7; for those who have suffered loss from natural disasters across our country; for the law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty in 2020 and their families; and for the youth in St. Louis who have suffered directly from gun violence this year and those whose lives were lost and their families

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: For the people and ministry of Grace Episcopal Church, Jefferson City, and Bill their priest-in-charge, and Paula their deacon

Companion Diocese of Lui, South Sudan: For Fraser Cathedral, Lui, and Francis their Dean

For those committed to our ongoing prayers: Deaconess Anne House interns; those discerning a call to ordained ministry; the ministry of the chaplains, staff, volunteers at Episcopal City Mission, and the youth in detention and their families; patients, families, & communities affected by substance use disorders; those suffering from untreated & undertreated pain and chronic diseases; those who serve in our military; those who are affected by COVID-19

Today's Ministers of Worship

Presider	The Rev. Laurie Anzilotti
Deacon	The Ven. Rebecca Barger
Musician	Cheryl Foster
Hymn Leader	Suzanne Jones
Lector	Sheilah McCart
Intercessor	Bob Smith
Livestream	Paul Jokerst and Jackie Selle

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