



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:30 A.M. AND 9:30 A.M.

Gathering Music (*The gathering music at 9:30 a.m. will be sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen.*)

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is Hope, the second candle is Peace, and the third candle is Joy. Let us pray: Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Song of Praise (*9:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen*)

The Collect of the Day

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 Lessons

A reading from Isaiah (61:1–4, 8–11)

Commentary:

This chapter of Isaiah begins by introducing the Servant and His mission. The Spirit of the sovereign Lord would be upon Him, enabling Him to do His work of announcing good news to distressed people. The Servant would fulfill God's ancient promises to Israel. Fulfillment was certain because of who God is, a lover of justice and hater of all wickedness. Israel's future joy was compared to that of a bride on her wedding day. When Jesus quoted from this portion of Isaiah while teaching in the Nazareth synagogue (see Luke 4:16-21), He astounded His audience by assuring them they were witnessing fulfillment of this prophecy.

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

(continued overleaf)

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126 (9:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen)

chant: John Sullivan

ANTIPHON: *"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed."*

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

ANTIPHON

Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."
Restore our fortunes O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

ANTIPHON

ANTIPHON

A reading from 1 Thessalonians (5:16–24)

Commentary:

There are some seventy instances in the New Testament where the command is: Rejoice! Christians can always rejoice when they remember what they have been given in Christ. Paul also urged prayerfulness, a constant reminder of dependence on God. Paul encouraged his readers to test what they heard by the standard of God's word in Scripture; in this way they could discern and hold what was good and true while discarding what was wrong and misleading. Paul's desire was for all to remain without fault until Christ's return, and he trusted God's faithfulness to complete His work in the life of every believer.

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (1:6–8,19–28)

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord 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.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Homily

The Reverend Pierce Klemmt

The Nicene Creed

Officiant and People together

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 worshiped 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

The response to each petition:

Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Officiant and 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.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Solo: (9:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen)

Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Sanctus *(Celebrant and People)*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant says in the midst of the prayer

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

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

The Lord's Prayer

The Fraction

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Communion of the People.

Communion Music *(9:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen)*

Post-Communion Prayer *(Celebrant and People)*

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Celebrant: The Reverend Chris Hamby

*The flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Jane Miller Metts, Edwin Anderson Metts, Elizabeth Cotchett Metts,
Elizabeth Metts Brown, James Fred Rippey III, Michael Corbett Brown, Sr.*

MT. LEBANON CHAPEL

ST. JAMES PARISH

25 South Third Street ♦ Wilmington, NC 28401 ♦ (910) 763-1628 ♦ parish@stjamesp.org

 @stjamesp  @stjamesparish

STJAMESP.ORG