



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER 2023

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

10:15 A.M.

Prelude

Processional Hymn 76

“On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry”

Winchester New

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

p. 355

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.**

Hymn 56

“O come, O come, Emmanuel”

Sts. 3–4

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - - - e's tree, free them from
tribes on Si - - - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
Sa - tan's ty - - - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe. *Re - joice! Re - joice!*
save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
Em - man - - - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - - - ra - el!

The Collect of the Day

p. 211

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Commentary: This passage in Isaiah stresses the comfort God had planned for His people, Israel. Coming deliverance was possible because of the Lord's faithfulness and Israel's unique relationship with Him. God's ultimate purpose for His people was life, not death; it was salvation, not enslavement. Israel had suffered greatly under God's judgment but was promised abundant future blessing. God Himself would come to help His people so they should prepare for His appearing. God's promise of hope and deliverance was not just for Israel's blessing, but also for the blessing of the whole world.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

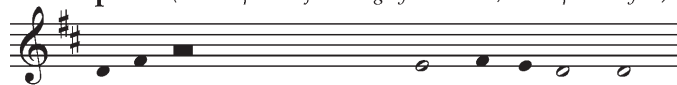
The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13

Benedixisti, Domine

Antiphon *(The antiphon is first sung by the Cantor, then repeated by all)*



I will listen to what the Lord God is say - ing.



You have been gracious to your land, O / **Lord**, *
 you have restored the good fortune of / **Jacob**.
 You have forgiven the iniquity of your / **people** *
 and blotted out all their / **sins**.

ANTIPHON

I will listen to what the Lord God is / **saying**, *
 for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
 and to those who turn their / **hearts to him**.
 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who / **fear him**, *
 that his glory may dwell in our / **land**.

ANTIPHON

Mercy and truth have met to-/**gether**; *
 righteousness and peace have kissed each / **other**.
 Truth shall spring up from the / **earth**, *
 and righteousness shall look down from / **heaven**.

ANTIPHON

The Lord will indeed grant pros-/**perity**, *
 and our land will yield its / **increase**.
 Righteousness shall go be-/**fore him**, *
 and peace shall be a pathway for his / **feet**.

ANTIPHON

The Epistle: 2 Peter 3:8–15a

NRSV, p. 1111

Commentary: The people to whom Peter wrote this letter were in danger from false teachers and scoffers who had come into the church. Not only did Peter refute false teaching, he urged watchfulness in light of Christ's certain return. Peter pointed out that God will remain faithful to fulfill every promise, whether it was made yesterday or one thousand years ago. God desires all to come to salvation and all can choose to accept the gift of His grace. The Day of the Lord will come as a surprise, which is motivation for everyone to live an alert, holy life now.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

People The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

After the reading, the children leave for Children's Chapel.

Sequence Hymn 75

“There’s a voice in the wilderness crying”

Ascension

The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1–8

NRSV, p.912

People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Geoffrey Hoare

The Nicene Creed

p. 358

Celebrant and People

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.

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant 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 Priest stands and says

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

The Peace

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

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

Arlen Clarke

In the stillness of our darkness, in the shadows of the night;
Earth is waiting for the promise, longing for the coming light.
Once before he came in blessing, still he comes, our hearts to win;
Come, Lord Jesus, come in glory, let your heaven on earth begin.
Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never; nevermore our presence leave.
Light of Light shine through our darkness, turn our night to radiant day;
Come, Lord Jesus, come in glory, open all our hearts to praise. Amen.

~ *Compilation*, Mark Schweizer

Presentation Hymn

Puer nobis

All laud, e - ter - nal Son, to thee whose ad - vent sets thy peo - ple free,
whom with the Fa - ther we a - dore, and Ho - ly Ghost for ev - er - more.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here, a proper preface is said, then the Celebrant continues...

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 "Holy, holy, holy Lord" *Resignation*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name, in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues, saying 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 Celebrant continues, concluding with:

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.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

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

Fraction Anthem: S152

Cantor Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.



People **There-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.**

The Communion of the People

Gluten-free wafers are available at the main altar upon request.

Communion Hymns

Hymn 54	“Savior of the nations, come”	<i>Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland</i>
Hymn 69	“What is thee crying at Jordan”	<i>St. Mark’s, Berkeley</i>
Hymn 601	“O day of God, draw nigh”	<i>St. Michael</i>

The Postcommunion Prayer

p. 366

Celebrant Let us pray.

**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.**

The Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 65

“Prepare the way, O Zion”

Bereden Väg för Herran

The Dismissal

p. 366

People Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



*Celebrant: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.
Preacher: The Reverend Geoffrey Hoare
Children’s Chapel: Ansley Trask
Organist & Choir Director: John Sullivan*

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

POINSETTIAS AND MUSIC

You are invited to participate in sharing the joy of tradition with the St. James Christmas Music & Flower Honorarium. We will be playing Christmas music and placing poinsettias and greens in honor of our loved ones this holiday season. You may submit your names online at stjamesp.org/poinsettia or by completing the form below and returning it to the church office prior to noon on **December 19th**.

Names submitted after this date may not appear in the bulletin.



One dedication per \$25 donation. Please PRINT clearly. Check one on each row:

- Christmas Flowers Music
 In Honor of In Memory of

Name of Person Remembered: _____

Given by: _____

Please return your completed form to the church office with your check marked "Christmas Flowers: or "Christmas Music"

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

MON.- FRI., DEC. 11-15

- MORNING PRAYER
8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

- SABBATH EXPLORATION GROUP
5:00 PM | Member Home
- VESTRY MEETING
5:15 PM | Graham Parlor
- FELLOWSHIP AA
7:00 PM | The Great Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

- EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
9:00 AM | Registration Req.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

- YOUTH BIBLE STUDY
7:00 AM | 16th St. Starbucks
- ADVENT BIBLE STUDY
11:00 AM | Graham Parlor or Zoom

WEDNESDAY, CONTINUED

- HOLY EUCHARIST
12:10 PM | St. James Chapel
- PARISH SHOP OPEN
12:15 - 1:30 PM | Parish House

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

- PARISH SHOP OPEN
4:15 - 5:45 PM | Parish House
- EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
6:30 PM | Graham Parlor
- CHOIR REHEARSAL
7:00 PM | Choir Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

- NO EVENTS PLANNED

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

- NO EVENTS PLANNED

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I
8:00 AM | St. James Parish
- FAMILY BREAKFAST
8:30 AM | Great Hall
- PARISH SHOP OPEN
8:45 - 10:30 AM | Parish House
- FAITH FORMATION HOUR
9:10 AM | St. James Parish
- HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
10:15 AM | St. James Parish & Online
- IGNITE! WRAP'N'YAP
5:00 PM | Youth Room
- SAM TRIPP: I CAN'T DANCE - CELLO RECITAL
6:00 PM | St. James Church

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the December 18th Digital Grapevine is Friday, December 15th.
The deadline for the December Grapevine Magazine is December 27th. Email communications@stjamesp.org.

TODAY AT ST. JAMES

FAITH FORMATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

Sunday, December 10, 2023 | 9:10 a.m.

- DISCIPLE'S CLASS: "The Second Coming of Christ" - led by The Rev. Phillip Craig, Jr.- *Lippitt Room*
- FAITH DISCUSSIONS: "Stages of Faith" - *Stephen Ministry Room*
- JUBI-LATTE ROUND TABLE: *Youth Room*
- SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR PRE-K-K 3s - 5th GRADES: *2nd Floor Milton Hall*

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - DRESS REHEARSAL

Sunday, December 10 | Following the 10:15 Service

Following the 10:15 service, all of our participating children will meet in the church for pageant practice, costume pick-up, and lunch. Please make sure your child attends if they are participating in the pageant. Special instructions for pageant day will be included in your child's costume bag.

NAMETAG PICK UP

If you ordered a nametag before Thanksgiving, your name tag is in! This Sunday, we will have all of our nametags out and available for pick up. Have questions or need to coordinate an alternate time to pick up your nametag? Please contact Dottie Benz at Dottiebenz@hotmail.com.

IGNITE: SHOP'N'IHOP

Sunday, December 10 | 5:00 PM | Walmart & IHOP

Instead of our regularly scheduled IGNITE!, you're invited to join the St. James Youth as we take on one of our favorite annual outreach projects. We will gather at Walmart on Market Street to SHOP for families with children who need our help at Christmas. Once we complete our purchases, we will pop over to IHOP for a delicious supper. Join the fun! Help other people! Bring your friends! SHOP & IHOP! For further information contact Cookie at cookie@stjamesp.org or Jane at janerippy@yahoo.com.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Number of Pledges: 291

Total Pledge amount: \$1,304,175

It's not too late to pledge to support St. James Parish in 2024. Visit our website or call the church office to participate.

stjamesp.org/pledge/



Goal: 350 Pledges | 83% Complete

POINSETTIAS & MUSIC

Deadline: December 19th at 12:00p.m

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stjamesp.org/blog/poinsettia/

UPCOMING OUTREACH

MEN ON A MISSION: SERVING MEALS AT GSC

GSC Dates: Dec. 5 & Dec 19

Seargent Ashley Veteran's Center: Dec. 28

If you are interested in serving on one of the above dates, please contact Brian McMerty at bmcmetry@arris.partners.

TRINITY GROVE STOCKING STUFFER DRIVE

Deadline to donate: December 11, 4:00 p.m.

Our neighbors at Trinity Grove have reached out with an invitation to support residents in need of a lift this holiday season. To donate, please bring non-slip socks, word activity books, coloring books, and puzzles to the Bacon House.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Dates to serve: Christmas Day, 12.26, and New Year's Eve!

If you are interested in serving on one of the above dates, please contact Molly Roush at mollyrousb@hotmail.com.

IGNITE: WRAP'N'YAP

Sunday, December 17 | 5:00 PM | Youth Room

During IGNITE! on December 17th, our St. James Youth are invited to join us for snacks and to WRAP all of the gifts that we have purchased at "Shop'N'IHop." We will also be watching a Christmas Movie as we act like an ELF and WRAP our gifts! For further information contact Cookie cookie@stjamesp.org or Jane janerippy@yahoo.com. Bring your friends!

ST. JAMES PARISH

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

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

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