



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2023

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

10:15 A.M.

Prelude

Processional Hymn 74

“Blest be the King whose coming”

Valet will ich dir geben

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 57

“O come, O come, Emmanuel”

Sts. 5–6

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

5 O come, thou Key of Da - - - vid, come, and o - pen
6 O come, thou Day - spring from _____ on high, and cheer us

wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads _____ on
by thy draw - ing night; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds _____ of

high, and close the path to mis - - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!
night, and death's dark shad - ow put _____ to flight.

Em - man - - - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - - - ra - el!

The Collect of the Day

p. 212

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant 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 Christmas Pageant

after the Pageant, the children leave for the Children's Chapel

The Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

NRSV, p. 1079

Commentary: There are some seventy instances in the New Testament where the command is: Rejoice! Christians can always rejoice if they remember what they have been given in Christ. Paul also urged prayerfulness as 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 was confident that God would see His work completed 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.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 635

"If thou but trust in God to guide thee"

Wer nur den lieben Gott

The Holy Gospel: John 1:6–8,19–28

NRSV, p.968

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

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.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

p. 360

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

p. 360

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

Welcome and Announcements

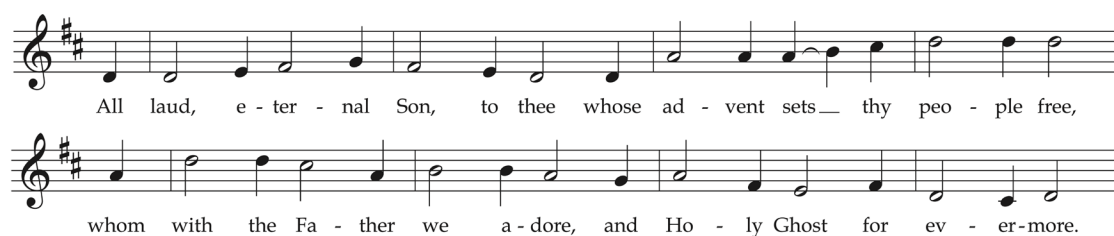
THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

Simon Mold

Lo! He comes, an infant stranger, of a lowly mother born,
Swathed and cradled in a manger, of His pristine glory shorn!
Lo! He comes, the great Creator, calling all the world to own Him,
the Judge and Lord of nature, seated on His Father's throne!
Lo! He comes, constrained to borrow shelter from yon stabled shed;
He who shall, through years of sorrow have not where to lay His head!
Lo! He comes, all grief expelling from the hearts that Him receive!
He to each with Him a dwelling In His Father's house will give.
Man of human flesh partaking, offspring of the Virgin's womb,
Who, the hopeless wand'rer seeking, deigned in lowly guise to come!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Praise to Christ, incarnate word!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Praise, O Praise ye Him, the living Lord!

~ Richard Mant, 1776-1848 (adapted)

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B**

p. 367

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

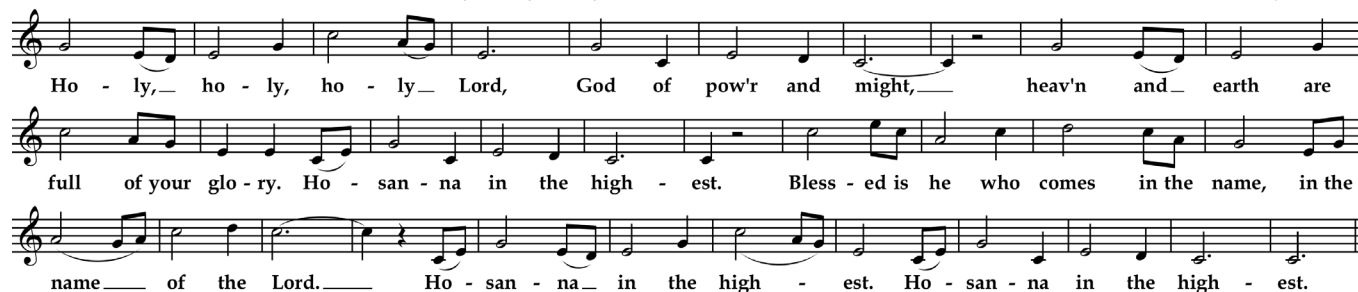
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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

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

p. 364

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

p. 364

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 63

"O heavenly Word, eternal light"

Verbum supernum prodiens

Hymn 640

"Watchmen, tell of us the night"

Aberystwyth

Hymn

"Tell out, my soul"

Eventide



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!
3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings, give my spi - rit voice;
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.



ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord



in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.
his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.
the hun - gry fed, the hum-ble lift - ed high.
to child - ren's child - ren and for ev - er - more!

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 72

“Hark! The glad sound! The Savior comes”

Richmond

The Dismissal

p. 366

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



*Celebrant: The Reverend Cheryl Brainard
Preacher: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.
Assisting Priest: The Reverend Gray Hodsdon
Organist & Choir Director: John Sullivan*

*The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Richard Henry Youngblood and Christine Ramsaur Youngblood and Raiford Graham Trask,
Mable Dunn Hall Trask, Charles Ramsaur Youngblood*

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. 18-22

- SJDS CLOSED - CHRISTMAS BREAK
- MORNING PRAYER
8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

- LIVING WELL IN MIDST OF GRIEF
5:00 PM | Member Home
- FELLOWSHIP AA
7:00 PM | The Great Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

- MEN ON A MISSION: SERVING AT
GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER
4:30 - 7:00 PM | Good Shepherd

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 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 21

- 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 22

- A CLASSICAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT
7:30 PM | St. James Parish

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

- NO EVENTS PLANNED

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS EVE

- HE RITE II: FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT LITURGY
9:00 AM | Great Hall
- PARISH SHOP OPEN
8:45 - 10:30 AM | Parish House
- CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
4:00 PM | St. James Parish & Online
- CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
6:00 PM | St. James Parish & Online
- CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
10:30 PM | St. James Parish & Online

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**

- CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
10:30 AM | St. James Parish & Online

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the December 26th Digital Grapevine is Wednesday, December 20th.
The deadline for the December Grapevine Magazine is December 27th. Email communications@stjamesp.org.

TODAY AT ST. JAMES

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: 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." For further information contact Cookie cookie@stjamesp.org or Jane janerippy@yahoo.com. Bring your friends!

SAM TRIPP - CELLO RECITAL

Sunday, December 17 | 6:00 PM | St. James Parish

Our parish family is invited to join Sam Tripp as he shares melodies of dance. All are welcome!

UPCOMING EVENTS

MOM: SERVING MEALS AT GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER

GSC: Dec 19 | Sargent Ashley Veteran's Center: Dec. 28

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

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Last Session: Dec. 20 | 11:00 a.m. | Graham Parlor | Zoom

If you are interested in joining us, please do! If you have questions, reach out to Rev. Cheryl at Cheryl@stjamesp.org.

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 mollyroush@hotmail.com.

A CLASSICAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Friday, December 22 | 7:30 p.m. | St. James Parish

St. James Episcopal Church is proud to present "A Classical Christmas," on Friday, December 22nd, at 7:30 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church located at 25 S. Third Street. Featuring St. James' own celebrated professional singers, this program of Christmas carols and songs will brighten these long winter days and will bring peace to your heart. Soloists include: Sara Westermarck, soprano; Tanya Hanano, mezzo soprano; James Taylor, tenor; and a debut by Hans Graham Westermarck, baritone—accompanied by John Sullivan, piano. This program also features upcoming talented students from the Westermarck Voice Studio—Nilin Pavate and Ozzy Davidson as trebles. Donations go to "A Safe Place" to aid victims of commercial sexual exploitation and domestic sex trafficking.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Number of Pledges: 304

Total Pledge amount: \$1,344,175

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 | 87% Complete

POINSETTIAS & MUSIC

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

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stjamesp.org/blog/poinsettia/

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY

Our Service Schedule for Christmas Eve 2023 will be:

- 9:00 AM - Fourth Sunday of Advent - Rite II
- 4:00 PM - Christmas Eve Liturgy
- 6:00 PM - Christmas Eve Liturgy
- 10:30 PM - Christmas Eve Liturgy

Our Service Schedule for Christmas Day 2023 will be:

- 10:30 AM - Christmas Day Service

All services will be livestreamed.

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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stjamesp.org