

Order of Public Worship of God

The Seventeenth Day of December, Two Thousand Twenty-Three

Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

“Luke sees the Old Testament not merely as a collection of *predictions* about a future messiah but rather as a book of *promises* made by God to the people Israel: through his covenant promise, God has bound himself to this particular people and can therefore be trusted to rescue them from oppression.”

- Richard Hays, *Echoes of Scripture in the New Testament*

“Friendship arises out of mere Companionship when two or more of the companions discover that they have in common some insight or interest or even taste which the others do not share and which, till that moment, each believed to be his own unique treasure (or burden). The typical expression of opening Friendship would be something like, ‘What? You too? I thought I was the only one.’”

- C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*



OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness,
and put on the armor of light,
Now in the time of this mortal life
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to visit us in great humility;
That in the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge both the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
Through him who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

† HYMN OF WORSHIP | “Hark The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord.
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Come, Desire of nations, come! Fix in us Thy humble home,
Rise the woman's conquering seed, Bruise in us the serpent's head!
Adam's likeness now efface, Shine Thine image in its place!
Second Adam from above, Reinstate us in Thy love.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

† ADVENT LESSON AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY

† CALL TO WORSHIP | Psalm 8:1-6, 9

O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?

Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.

You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,

O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!



† HYMNS OF THANKSGIVING | “Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor”

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love’s sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love’s sake becamest poor.

Thou who are God beyond all praising,
All for love’s sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising,
Heav’nward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love’s sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.

“Our King of Peace”

My soul magnifies the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God!
My Savior has seen his servant in need,
And behold the great things he has done:

He scatters the proud and rich; he lifts up the humble and weak.
The kings of the earth, he casts from their thrones
And the hungry he welcomes to feast.

Refrain:

Oh, behold, my Savior has come! And my soul will tell of his praise,
For he who is strong has come to the weak
And, at last, he will reign as our King of Peace!

From now to the end of time the nations will know me as blest
For God has made new his promise of love
And mercy through Abraham’s seed (*refrain*)

INVOCATION AND 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 debts
as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

† CORPORATE PROFESSION OF FAITH | The Athanasian Creed, On the Incarnation

It is necessary for eternal salvation that one also
faithfully believe that our Lord Jesus Christ became flesh.
For this is the true faith that we believe and confess:
That our Lord Jesus Christ, God’s Son,
is both God and man.
He is God, begotten before all worlds from the being of the Father,
And he is man, born in the world from the being of his mother:
existing fully as God, and fully as man
with a rational soul and a human body;
equal to the Father in divinity, subordinate to the Father in humanity.
Although he is God and man, he is not divided, but is one Christ.
He is united because God has taken humanity into himself;
he does not transform deity into humanity.
He is completely one in the unity of his person,
without confusing his natures.
For as the rational soul and body are one person,
so the one Christ is God and man.
He suffered death for our salvation.
He descended into hell and rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

† DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† GREETING

*Junior Worship begins for children age four through first grade. Please escort children to the following classrooms.
Preschool - Room 10; Kindergarten and First Grade - Room 9. Children will return to sit with their families
before communion.*

READING OF GOD’S WORD | Luke 1: 39-45

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Series - The Last Prophet

Sermon - “Blessed Are You”
- Rev. Joshua Smith

PRAYER FOR GRACE AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN | Book of Cerne, 9th century

We come before your sight, O Lord, as those accused with our conscience as witness. We pray, not daring to ask what we are not worthy to receive. But Lord, you know everything that drives us to confess to you; what we are ashamed of, and the sins we were not afraid to commit. With these words we yield to you our hearts and minds, and commend to you what we say, but not what we have done. Spare us, O Lord, and forgive the sins we confess. Have mercy on those who call to you. And because our senses are weak in comprehending your mysteries, grant, Lord, the things we do not ask because of the hardness of our hearts, and grant us pardon; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON | Richard Rolle, d. 1349

O Holy God, in you is all goodness, your pity and mercy made you to descend from the high throne down into this world, the valley of woe and weeping, and here you took our nature, and in that nature, you suffered pain and death to bring our souls to your Kingdom. In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND SHARING OF THE CUP

How do we take communion at St. Patrick?

When directed, please come forward to receive the bread and the cup. The white chalices contain wine; the darker ones on the tables have grape juice. The crackers on the tables are gluten-free. The elder will distribute the bread and then follow with the wine chalice. We will practice intinction, where you will dip the bread in the wine. If you prefer grape juice or need gluten-free bread, indicate your preference when the elder comes to you, then go to the table for your elements. After receiving communion, you will proceed to the outside aisle to return to your seats.

Who comes to the Table?

Communion is open to all baptized believers who have made a profession of faith in Jesus. If you have children who have not made a profession of faith, they are not ready to partake of the elements, but please bring them forward to be blessed by one of our elders. If you are not a believer but want to know more about Jesus, you are invited to come forward and simply bypass the table, letting one of the leaders know that you would like to learn more about what it means to know and belong to Jesus.

† HYMN OF ASSURANCE | “Once in Royal David’s City”

Once in royal David’s city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall:
With the poor and mean and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above,
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him, but in heaven,
Set at God’s right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall gather ‘round.

† BENEDICTION | 1 Timothy 1:17

To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture tells us to make our needs known to God, and to call others to pray with and for us. If you would like prayer, elders will be standing in the front of the sanctuary (pulpit side) immediately following the service to pray with you.



Helpful Links:



If you are new to St. Patrick or have a prayer request, please fill out the portion below. You may place your liturgy in the offering plate or in the designated basket in the Narthex as you leave.

NEW HERE?
Name _____
Phone _____
Email _____
NEED PRAYER?

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