



# St. John's Episcopal Church

## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II DECEMBER 13, 2020 10:00 AM

Voluntary

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

Paul Siefert

**Entrance Hymn 59** (*Sung by the choir*)

*Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding*

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding. "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
"Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day."

Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth's bondage let us rise;  
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven;  
let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven;

so when next he comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
may he with his mercy shield us, and with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son,  
with the everlasting Spirit, while unending ages run.

### **The Opening Acclamation**

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

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

### **The Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent**

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Priest:* 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 First Lesson 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24** (*Seated*)

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.**

**Sequence Hymn 67** (*Sung by the choir; standing*)

*Comfort, comfort ye my people*

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,  
calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain:

let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad;  
and all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.

**The Holy Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28** (*Standing*)

*Deacon:* 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.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Children's Homily**

**The Sermon** (*Seated*)

The Reverend Abigail W. Moon

## **The Prayers of the People** *(Kneeling or standing)*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; John, Charles, and Dorsey, our Bishops; Dave, Abi, and Wallace, our priests; Joe, our deacon; Chris, our seminarian; Sabrina, our urban missionary; Pat, preparing to become a deacon; and Juan Carlos, our companion parish priest; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; for Donald, our president; Joe, our president-elect; Ron, our governor; John, our mayor; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

Remembering our new members, and Agustin Maxwell Means, baptized last week, I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

Remembering William Eppes Proctor, I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for Julia Livingston, Ann Macmillan, Grady Enlow, Corinna Strayer, Jimmy Spellman, Hussein Almasi, Denny Calhoun, Allen Bowers, Brenda Williams, and all those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

*The celebrant adds a concluding collect.*

## **Confession of Sin and Absolution**

*Deacon:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All:* 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 offers absolution of sins.*

## **The Peace**

*Priest:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

## **Offertory**

*Remember, O thou man*

Roy Johnson

*We encourage you to place your offerings in the offertory plates at the exits of the church if you are worshipping with us in person. If you are worshipping with us online, you can text your gift by texting STJOHNS to 732-56. You can go to the St. John's website and click on the Give Now button on the top-right of the homepage. You can mail your gift to*

*the church office: St. John's Episcopal Church, Attn: Finance Office, 211 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL, 32301.  
If you bank online, set up St. John's as a vendor with your bank for quick, easy, online payments.*

## **The Great Thanksgiving-Eucharistic Prayer B**

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Priest:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Priest:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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 S 130**

*Holy, holy, holy*

Franz Schubert

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, (2x)  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. (2x)  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. (2x)

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Priest and People:*

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with John and all your saints, we may enter

the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the first born of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Priest:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*All:* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**Invitation to Communion:** *All baptized people are welcome to receive the consecrated bread of the Eucharist. Please come forward to the priest to receive. Please receive the bread (a wafer) in the palm of your hand. Please know that the Episcopal Church maintains that the full blessing of the Eucharist is available in only one element. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Those not receiving the bread are invited to receive a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms in front of your chest.*

### **Postcommunion Prayer** *(Said by all, kneeling)*

*Priest:* Let us pray.

*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.

### **The Blessing**

**Closing Hymn 72, vv.1-2** *(Sung by the choir; standing)*

*Hark the glad sound!*

Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes, the Savior promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

### **The Dismissal**

*Deacon:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

### **Voluntary**

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

Hugo Distler

### **Tower Bells**

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### **Flower dedication**

*In honor of Boyd and Becky Baldwin's wedding anniversary, by Kate Kile*