Third Sunday of Advent 10 a.m. 14 December 2025

We invite you to prepare for the service in quiet meditation and prayer.

Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982.

"BCP" refers to pages in the red Book of Common Prayer.

#### THE WORD OF GOD

#### **Tower Bells**

Voluntary ...... Dominica III Adventus Charles Tournemire

#### Come, thou long expected Jesus (Stand)...... Hymn 66

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

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

The Celebrant continues

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*.

Kyrie ......Hymn S 96

### The Collect of the Day

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*.

#### A Reading from the prophet Isaiah

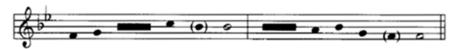
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

[Isaiah 35:1-10]

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

#### Psalm 146:4-9

The choir sings the first verse; all join for the remaining verses.



- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob / for their help! \* whose hope is / in the Lord their God;
- Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is / in them; \* who keeps his pro / mise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who / are oppressed, \* and food to / those who hunger.
- 7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the/blind; \* the Lord lifts up those / who are bowed down;
- 8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the / stranger; \* he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way / of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for / ever, \* your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. / Hallelujah!

#### A Reading from the letter of James

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

[James 5:7-10]

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

#### O for a thousand tongues to sing (Stand)........... Hymn 493

#### The Gospel

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." [Matthew 11:2-11]

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

## Children's Chapel

*Pre-K through 3rd grade children gather at the front steps of the chancel for a blessing before processing to Children's Chapel.* 

#### The Sermon

A brief period of silence follows the sermon.

The Nicene Creed (Stand).....BCP 358

The Prayers of the People (Kneel)

At the end of each petition

Leader Let us see your glory, O Lord;

People come to us and save us!

The Collect for the Diocese (Remain kneeling)

The Confession & Absolution.....BCP 360

The Peace......BCP 360

Announcements

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory..... E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come
Paul Manz

If you are worshipping with us in person, we encourage you to place your gift in the offering plates as they are passed in the pews. For instructions on online and text giving, see the back panel of this bulletin.

Presentation of Gifts (Stand)......Hymn 76, v.5

All praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent doth thy people free; whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

**Communion** 

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion at St. John's. Approach the altar in a double line in the center aisle. Stand or kneel at the rail and receive the bread in your hand. You may sip the wine directly from the common cup, or you may allow the Eucharistic Minister to dip the bread in the cup and return it to you. If you do not wish to receive the bread or wine for any reason, fold your arms across your chest, and the priest will give you a blessing instead.

If you would like to receive Communion but are unable to walk to the rail, tell a greeter, and a minister will be happy to bring Communion to you at your pew.

Communion Hymns .......63, 462, 640

The Postcommunion Prayer (Kneel).....BCP 366

### **Sending of Eucharistic Visitors**

If Eucharistic Visitors are sent forth to take Communion to the sick or homebound, the following is said.

*Celebrant* N., we send you forth in the Name of this

Congregation, to N. bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the

communion of Christ's body and blood.

*People* We who are many are one body, because we all

share one bread, one cup.

#### Sending of Las Posadas Figures

The Blessing

The Dismissal ......BCP 366

Voluntary..... Prelude on Breslau with Conditor alme

Winfred Douglas

**Tower Bells** 

# St. John's Episcopal Church

211 North Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32301 (850) 222-2636 | www.saint-john.org

Deep Roots. True Belonging. Abundant Grace.

#### Welcome!

Since 1829, St. John's Episcopal Church has sought to love Christ and our neighbors in Tallahassee and the world. Whether you are a lifelong Christian or it is your first time entering a church, welcome. We are glad you are here.

#### Your Gift Makes a Difference



St. John's runs solely on the generosity of its members. Give today via the offering plate; or text STJOHNS to 73256; or scan this code with your phone to give online. You can also mail your gift to St. John's Episcopal Church, Attn: Finance Office, 211 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32301. Every gift, large or small, sustains the church you love.

#### Childcare

Free, professional childcare is provided 9:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. each Sunday.

## **Hearing System**

To access our hearing loop system, set your hearing aid to tele-coil or "t" telephone mode. If your hearing aid does not have this capability, wireless headsets are available at the north tower entrance or from an usher.

# **Large Print Bulletins**

Large print bulletins are available in the south transept amd north tower for the visually impaired. Pick one up by the door or ask an usher.

#### **Altar Flower Dedications**

Altar flower dedications are a wonderful way to honor loved ones. Visit the GIVE page on St. John's website or contact the church office for assistance.

# **Weekly Services**

#### SUNDAY

8:00 a.m	Holy Eucharist (Rite I)	Sanctuary
10:00 a.m	Holy Eucharist (Rite II) service is livestreamed	Sanctuary

#### WEDNESDAY

12:10 p.m	Holy Eucharist (Rite II)	Chape
	with Healing Prayer	

# **Parish Prayer List**

Please take this list home each week and commit to praying daily for your fellow parishioners.

**Prayers:** Diana Daktere, Baby Honor Isabelle Strauss, John, Ben, Sharon & Nathanael Lyle, Davis Houck, Ray, Dave Watson, Tommy, Janet Blount, Carlton Rainey

The Departed: Ann Hingst

**Our Clergy:** The Rev. Lonnie Lacy, Rector; The Rev. Leslie Roraback, Associate Rector; The Rev. Dcn. Joe Bakker, Deacon; Melanie Salsgiver, Seminarian