



GOOD MORNING & WELCOME

Welcome to everyone joining us for worship this morning. Whether or not you consider yourselves members of this congregation, we are glad you are here. If the flow of worship should seem unfamiliar to you, relax and let God's presence envelop you, without a worry about when to stand, sit or kneel. If you are new to St. John's, please sign our guest register.

****Please silence all cell phones and other noise-making devices
before the start of the service. Thank you.****

The Rev. Nathan Carr – Vicar

The Rev. William Font – Priest Associate

The Rev. Lisa Chronister – Deacon

Cynthia Cortright D.M.A. – Organist / Choir Director

Daisy Leyva-Lara – Children's Coordinator

Victoria Moon – Nursery Attendant

Serving Today:

Greeters/Oblationers – Emily Mooney and Aaron Mooney

**Layreader/Chalice Bearers – Angela Hooper,
Beverly Bradley and Steve Orwig**

**Acolytes – Charlie Bornman, Charley Kolb,
Sir Patton and Latoya Burris**

Children's Activities – Victoria Moon

St. John's Episcopal Church

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9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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The Second Sunday of Advent – Year B

Decalogue

Rite II – Holy Eucharist & Hymns – December 10, 2023 – 10:15 AM

The Word of God

Prelude

Processional

The Hymnal, #65

65

Advent



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920)
Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697

76. 76. 77 with Refrain

Celebrant
People
Celebrant

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

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

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.**

God spake these words, and said: I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Honor thy father and thy mother.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt do no murder.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not steal.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not covet.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

Kyrie

The Hymnal, S91

Lord, have mercy upon us. (3X)

Christ have mercy upon us. (3X)

Lord, have mercy upon us. (3X)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

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.**

We Proclaim and Respond to the Word of God

The First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

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.

The Response

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Benedixisti, Domine

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O **LORD**, *
you have restored the good fortune of **Jacob**.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your **people** *
and blotted out all their **sins**.
- 8 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**.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who **fear** him, *
that his glory may dwell in our **land**.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met **together**; *
righteousness and peace have **kissed** each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the **earth**, *
and righteousness shall look down from **heaven**.
- 12 The **LORD** will indeed grant **prosperity**, *
and our land will yield its **increase**.
- 13 Righteousness shall go **before** him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his **feet**.

The Second Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-15a

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn

The Hymnal, #75

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where the Lord our God may go!

2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away;

3 but the word of our God endureth,
the arm of the Lord is strong;
he stands in the midst of nations,
and he will right the wrong.
He shall feed His flock like a shepherd,
the lambs he'll gently hold;
to pastures of peace he'll lead them,
and bring them safe to his fold.

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

The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

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.”

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

Sermon

The Rev. William Font

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.

The Prayers of the People

Form III

Please stand or kneel

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

*The People may add their own petitions
The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader 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 Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant may add sentences from scripture.
Please stand.*

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

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Blessing Prayer

O God, our times are in your hand: look with favor, we pray, on all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace; strengthen their trust in your goodness, and in their hearts may your peace, which passes understanding, abide all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

Offertory Anthem

O Come to Set Us Free
St. John's Episcopal Church Choir

Mary McDonald

*Come, O come, our Savior Messiah,
come to set us free, hallelujah!
We await your holy birth,
Jesus, Light of the World
King of kings and Lord of lords,
come to set us free, hallelujah!*

*Prince of Peace,
He is God, our Redeemer.
Glory to the Son of God,
Light and Life of the World.
O Come to set us free,
Emmanuel!*

Doxology

The Hymnal, #380 (verse 3)

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **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 sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

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 all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn 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,

**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

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei

The Hymnal, S163

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

We Share the Gifts of God

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

The Hymnal, #343

1 Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless
thy chosen pilgrim flock
with manna in the wilderness,
with water from the rock.

2 We would not live by bread alone,
but by thy word of grace,
in strength of which we travel on
to our abiding-place.

3 Be known to us in breaking bread,
and do not then depart;
Saviour, abide with us, and spread
thy table in our heart.

4 Lord, sup with us in love divine,
thy Body and thy Blood,
that living bread, that heavenly wine,
be our immortal food.

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

Let us pray.

Celebrant and 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.**

Sending Out of the Lay Eucharist Visitors

Celebrant or Deacon: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth 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 and one cup.**

67

Advent

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him.
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.
Music: *Psalm* 42, melody Claude Goudimel (1514-1572)

87. 87. 77. 88

Dismissal Response: Thanks be to God

Postlude

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please hold these souls in your ongoing prayers:

Audrey	Drew Kolb	Kathleen Rhodes
Steven Barnes	Sarah Kramer	Rob, Ruthie and
Beverly Bradley	Jean Ledet & Chad	Samuel
Bob	Dixon	Adrienne Robertson
Braiden	Denys Lenets	Sahar
Lewis Honor Carr	Kara Lynn	Scott Salladin
Nancy Carr	Ron Marlett	Seth
Jeff Clemens	Tony Marruchella	Betty Sinclair
Kathie Clemens	Mary	Family of Kenneth
Dave Coleson	Leland Mayo	Sosna
Sue Collins	Betty & Delbert Millican	John Steward and
Sir Michael Dawson	and Ryan Lightfoot	Lee DeWitt
Stephanie Dunham	Trish Morgan	Martha Steward
Dru	Christina Morris	Nancy Steward
Ed	Pau. Mosier	Susan
Sharon Ellington	Christina Morris	Sydney and Troy
Jim Freeman	Paul Mosier	Ed Tebow
Tom Freeman	Deborah Nelson	Sarah Tracy
Agatha Gasperoni	Joy Nelson	Tyler and Dru
Myrna Gowman	The Nichols Family	Donna Walters
John Greiner	Pam	Mary Jo Watson
Steve Hammontree	Babette Patton	Pat Westervelt
Aimee Hanneman	Patty	Gordon Welch
Kimberly Hopper	Penny	Will
Dr. J	Peter	Ginny Wynn
Jack	Monte Pratt	
Jessica	Mathew Reynolds	
Judd		

Altar Gifts

Today is the greening of the Church, following the service. Next week, the Altar Guild will begin placing poinsettias at the altar, starting with two large pink poinsettias and eventually a large display of red, pink and white poinsettias on the altar, surrounding the creche with Mary and Joseph.

A form has been provided in this bulletin for donations toward the Christmas Music and Flowers. All flower and music donations will be acknowledged in the Christmas bulletin.

Birthdays This Week

13 Finn Newberry
13 Gayle Barnes
15 Chad Harris
16 Cherie Tompkins
16 Cynthia Cortright

Today is the greening of the church for Advent and Christmas. All those wishing to help should stay following today's service. **All assistance is appreciated.** This is a fun family Advent activity. We will need some volunteers willing to climb ladders to accomplish this.

Sunday School News: The adult forum has completed their study of Matthew. The confirmation and new member class, the youth and the children's classes will meet through December 10. **Sunday School will break from December 17 through January 7** and reconvene on January 14.

Gift Wrapping by Cherie will take place following the service on **Sunday, December 17**. This is a great opportunity for you to **get your gifts wrapped and ready to put under the tree**, just in time! Cherie has lots of experience wrapping packages and loves to serve others. Don't miss this! You will be so grateful you remembered to bring those gifts.

You are cordially invited to attend the **Magdalene House OKC Open House & House Blessings**. This open house will include a tour and house blessings. **Sunday, December 17 from 2-4 pm OR Monday, December 18 from 4-6 pm. The address is 2800 NW 27th Street**

We are continuing Bake Sales with proceeds going to an important new ministry. We are raising funds to purchase an adult-sized changing table. **Please help us raise these funds** by bringing your favorite baked goods to sell and/or purchasing some goodies when you are here on Sundays.

Forms for donations toward Advent Flowers and Christmas Eve Music are included in your bulletin today. Please complete the form and place it on the offertory plate. Your contribution will be listed on the Christmas bulletins. Contributions will be accepted through Sunday, December 17 to be included.

Weekday Services through December

Wednesday, Dec 6, 5:30 pm - First Wednesday Eucharist
Wednesday, Dec 13, 5:30 pm - Evening Prayer
Wednesday, Dec 20, 5:30 pm – Evening Prayer
Thursday, Dec 21, 5:30 pm - Feast of St Thomas the Apostle
Tuesday, Dec 26, Noon - Feast of St. Stephen
Wednesday, Dec 27, Noon - Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Thursday, Dec 28 Noon - Feast of Holy Innocents

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