



The Third Sunday of Advent  
**THE HOLY EUCHARIST**  
Sunday, 17 December 2023 • 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM  
Pensacola, Florida • Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

The People's responses are in **bold italics**.

Hymns are in the blue *Hymnal 1982*.

Service music (marked "S") is found at the front of the Hymnal.

Other page numbers refer to the red *Book of Common Prayer*.

### Worship Information

*Welcome to Christ Church! We especially welcome our visitors and newcomers and ask that you fill out a visitor card so that we can thank you for coming.*

*For Children – Children are always welcome during service. There is a Kid's Korner with books and activities at the entrance.*

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### Opening Voluntary

Chorale Prelude on *Morning Song*

— Charles W. Ore (b. 1936)

### Hymn in Procession

**Hymn 72** — *Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes*

### Welcome

#### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD – BCP 355

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

*People* **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.**

### Hymn of Praise: *Trisagion*

**Hymnal S 102**

*The Hymn is sung three times.*

### 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.**

*The People may be seated.*

### The First Lesson — Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,

to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 126

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \***  
**and our tongue with shouts of joy.**
- 3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 **The LORD has done great things for us, \***  
**and we are glad indeed.**
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 **Those who sowed with tears \***  
**will reap with songs of joy.**
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

### The Second Lesson — 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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. **Thanks be to God.**

*The People stand for the Sequence Hymn and the Gospel.*

10:30 - Sequence Hymn

Hymn 76 — *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*

The Gospel — John 1:6-8, 19-28

*Priest* 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.

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

The Sermon

*The Rev. Dr. Michael Hoffman*

*Silence may be kept.*

The Nicene Creed *The People stand.*

BCP 358

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: Form IV

BCP 388

*Celebrant* Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

*Leader* Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

*Leader* Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, especially the Middle East, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

*Leader* Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

*Leader* Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray especially for the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

*Leader* Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially...*); give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

*Leader* We commend to your mercy all who have died (*especially...*), that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister 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** *All stand.*

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

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

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**Announcements**

**The Offertory**

**10:30 - Offertory Anthem**

*"The Lord at first did Adam make" – Philip Moore (b. 1943)*

*The Lord at first did Adam make Out of the dust and clay,  
And in his nostrils breathed life, E'en as the Scriptures say.*

*And then in Eden's Paradise He placèd him to dwell,  
That he within it should remain To dress and keep it well:*

*Refrain*

*Now let good Christians wake from sleep,  
Let darkness turn to day,  
And sinners find in mutual love  
The straight and glorious way.*

*Now mark the goodness of the Lord Which he for mankind bore,  
His mercy soon he did extend, Lost man for to restore;  
And then for to redeem our souls From death and hellish thrall,  
He said his own dear Son should be The Saviour of us all.*

*Now for the blessings we enjoy, Which are from Heaven above,  
Let us renounce all wickedness And live in perfect love.  
Then shall we do Christ's own command,  
E'en his own written word,  
And when we die in Heaven shall Enjoy our living Lord.*

*And now the tide is nigh at hand, In which our Saviour came;  
Let us rejoice, and merry be, In keeping of the same.  
Let's feed the poor and hungry souls, And such as do it crave;  
Then when we die, in Heaven we our sure reward shall have.*

**At the Presentation**

**Hymnal 380:3**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

*At the presentation of the monetary gifts,*

*Celebrant* All things come of thee, O Lord.

*People* **And of thine own have we given thee.**

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**  
**Eucharistic Prayer A – BCP 361**

*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 said.*

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*

**Hymnal S 124**

**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*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant* 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**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.*

*People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

**10:30 - Then is sung**

**Fraction Anthem: *Agnus Dei***

**Hymnal S 157**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation:*  
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### **The Communion**

*Christians of all ages (regardless of where you were baptized) are welcome to receive Holy Communion. • Please come forward to the Altar Rail, being careful of the step just before the rail. • The rail fills from the center, and please don't hesitate to cross to the other side if there is space. • Communion is available in two kinds. If you choose not to receive communion in one or both kinds, please cross both arms across your chest and the priest will offer a blessing. • If you choose to receive communion in one kind, know Christ is fully present and all benefits of the Eucharist are fully received. • If you receive the chalice, please assist the chalice bearer by guiding the base of the cup. Or you may choose to intinct in the chalice. • If you need a gluten-free wafer, please cross one arm across your chest. There is no separate chalice. • If you would like the clergy to bring communion to someone in the pew, please notify the ushers at the door.*

### **Communion Hymns**

**Hymn 640** — *Watchman, tell us of the night*

**Hymn 231** — *By all your saints still striving*

*For stanza 2, use the stanza for **The Nativity of St. John the Baptist**, at the bottom of the first page of Hymn 232.*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**BCP 365**

*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.*

### **Prayer for Mission**

**BCP 101**

*Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you: for the honor of your name. Amen.*

### **The Blessing**

### **Hymn in Procession**

**Hymn 74** — *Blest be the King whose coming*

*The Children's Christmas Pageant immediately follows the service.*



**Notes on the Notes** — The Opening Voluntary is a chorale prelude by contemporary Lutheran composer Charles Ore (b. 1936), known for organ compositions full of rhythmic vitality. It is based on the tune *Morning Song*, found at Hymn no. 9 in *The Hymnal 1982*. This tune may be known by some as *Consolation*. Long story short, we owe the tune name *Morning Song* to *The Hymnal 1940*, which renamed it to set it apart from a different hymn (“Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish”) sung to a different tune which *The Hymnal 1940* titled *Consolation*.

This morning's Offertory Anthem is “The Lord at first did Adam make” by English composer Philip Moore (b. 1943), Organist and Master of the Choirs at Guilford Cathedral and York Minster. This engaging Advent carol divides the verses among the choir and brings the choir together for the refrains, twice decorating them with soprano descants.

*The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God  
and in celebration of the birth of  
Everett Grant Newton.*

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### **CLERGY & STAFF**

The Rev. Dr. Michael Hoffman, *Rector*

The Rev. Katie Gillett, *Associate*

The Rev. Leonard Roberts Graves The Rev. Doug Halvorsen

The Rev. Walter Kindergan

The Rev. D. Fredrick Lindstrom, Jr. The Rev. John Walter Phillips, II

The Rev. Jandy H. Watkins, *Assisting Clergy*

Dr. Jason Hobratchsk, *Director of Music Ministry*

Paul Miller, *Assistant Organist*

Victoria Wright, *Director of Children & Family Ministries*

Tess Willstatter, *Youth Minister*

Tim Heindl, *Parish Administrator* Kelly Heindl, *Parish Secretary*

Traci Hart, *Director of Communications*

Honey Harris, *Director of Outreach & Connections*

Krista McGraw, *Clergy Assistant*

Treece Efird, *Technology Coordinator*

Kia Lewis, Bobbie Smith, Cleveland Swift, *Sextons*

Jean Karadin, *Senior Verger* Brandi Lane, *Verger*

