

The Third Sunday of Advent

14 December 2025

Morning Prayer II

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

Hymn #68

Rejoice! rejoice believers

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Speaker 1: The light glowing from our Advent wreath is burning brighter. This radiance warms our hearts and fills us with joy! The Lord has done great things for us. Let us rejoice.

Speaker 2: “May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves” (Psalm 126:5-6).

The first three candles are lit.

Speaker 3: Light three candles, see them glow
Brightly, so that all may know
How three candles show the way
Making our darkness bright as God’s day.

Speaker 4: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

All pray: *Dear God, we carry many burdens and worry over many things. Help us to hear your promise in this Advent season, that in hearing, we may receive the Spirit’s gift of joy. And may our spirits be kept sound at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling or standing

*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 Officiant stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

All stand

Officiant Lord, open our lips.
People *And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

Officiant and People

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.
Alleluia!*

Our King and Savior now draws near: *Come, let us adore him.*

Venite *Psalms 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Our King and Savior now draws near: *Come, let us adore him.*

Psalms 146:4-9

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
whose promise abides forever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

7 God sets the prisoners free;
and opens the eyes of the blind; *
God lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 God loves the righteous;
and cares for the stranger; *
God sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 God shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia!

The Lessons

The Old Testament: Isaiah 35:1-10

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

8 The Song of Moses *Cantemus Domino* *Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18*

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; *
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my refuge; *
the Lord has become my Savior.

This is my God and I will praise him, *
the God of my people and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a mighty warrior; *
Yahweh is his Name.

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; *
the finest of those who bear armor have been
drowned in the Red Sea.

The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; *
they sank into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; *
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.
Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? *
who is like you, glorious in holiness,
awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?
You stretched forth your right hand; *
the earth swallowed them up.
With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; *
with your might you brought them in safety to
your holy dwelling.
You will bring them in and plant them *
on the mount of your possession,
The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, *
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.
The Lord shall reign *
for ever and for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Epistle: James 5:7-10

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

15 The Song of Mary *Magnificat* *Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

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.”

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

Homily

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
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.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Anthem

Organist and Choir

Doxology

The Prayers

The People stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

<i>Our Father, who art in heaven,</i>	<i>Our Father in heaven,</i>
<i>hallowed be thy Name,</i>	<i>hallowed be your Name,</i>
<i>thy kingdom come,</i>	<i>your kingdom come,</i>
<i>thy will be done,</i>	<i>your will be done,</i>
<i>on earth as it is in heaven.</i>	<i>on earth as in heaven.</i>
<i>Give us this day our daily bread.</i>	<i>Give us today our daily bread.</i>
<i>And forgive us our trespasses,</i>	<i>Forgive us our sins</i>
<i>as we forgive those</i>	<i>as we forgive those</i>
<i>who trespass against us.</i>	<i>who sin against us.</i>
<i>And lead us not into temptation,</i>	<i>Save us from the time of trial,</i>
<i>but deliver us from evil.</i>	<i>and deliver us from evil.</i>
<i>For thine is the kingdom,</i>	<i>For the kingdom, the power,</i>
<i>and the power, and the glory,</i>	<i>and the glory are yours,</i>
<i>for ever and ever. Amen.</i>	<i>now and for ever. Amen.</i>

Suffrages A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. *And grant us your salvation.*
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. *Let your people sing with joy.*
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. *For only in you can we live in safety.*
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. *And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. *Your saving health among all nations.*
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. *Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. *And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.*

The Collect of the Day

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 forever. *Amen.*