

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE TWO

The Church of St. John the Divine 9:00 am and 11:15 am — December 14, 2025

# WELCOME



Welcome to St. John the Divine. We want to get to know you! Take your first step by completing a welcome card and placing it in the offering plate or scan this QR code to introduce yourself online.

Everything you need to join us in worship is found in this booklet. Hearing assistance is available. Please see an usher, who will be happy to help you!

#### FOR FAMILIES

Worshipers of all ages are encouraged to fully take part in all aspects of the service. Children's packets may be found in the narthex (lobby), children's Bibles are in the pews, and nursery care for children birth – age 2 is available next door in the administration building. Also available is a Church Family Room just off the narthex with comfortable furniture, toys, and a screen to view the service.

#### ALTAR FLOWERS

The church altar greenery is given to the glory of God in loving memory of Geraldine Wilkes Tucker Wallace by her family. To donate altar flowers in memory, thanksgiving, or honor of someone, visit sjd.org/flower-dedications or contact Hayden Coie at 713.354.2241 or hcoie@sjd.org.

The cover photo is of the Annunciation stained glass window located on the east wall of the Church. Photo by the Rev. Greg Buffone.

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# HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE TWO

# 9:00 am and 11:15 am – December 14, 2025 The Third Sunday of Advent — Year A

PRELUDE Two Meditations on Creator of the Stars of Night Raymond Weidner b. 1947 Alec Rowley 1892-1958

HYMN 56 Congregation stands.

Cantor: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,

All: That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind; bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

# THE WORD OF GOD

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

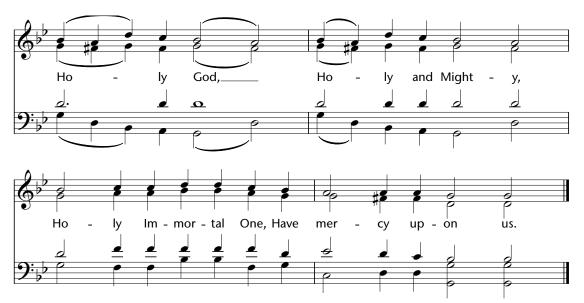
## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 355

Celebrant: 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*.

# TRISAGION S 102 (sung three times)

Alexander Archangelsky



Setting: ver. Hymnal 1982, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924).

### 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 LESSONS Congregation sits.

The Old Testament Isaiah 35:1-10

- 1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
- 2 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.
- 3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
- Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."
- Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
- then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert:
- the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;

in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

- And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not 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.
- 10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 146:4-9

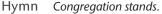
setting by Thomas Norris 1741-1790

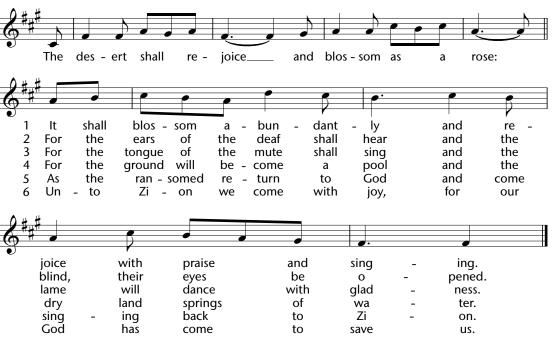
(9:00 am read responsively by whole verse)

(11:15 am sung by the choir)

- Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, and whose hope is in the LORD his God:
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is; who keepeth his promise for ever;
- Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong; who feedeth the hungry.
- 7 The LORD looseth men out of prison; the LORD giveth sight to the blind.
- The LORD helpeth them that are fallen; the LORD careth for the righteous.
- The LORD careth for the strangers, he defendeth the fatherless and widow: as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down.

At this time in the 9:00 am service, students in 1st to 5th grade are invited to join the Bridge Worship in the Nau Family Room. Students will rejoin the service at The Peace.





Words: Gracia Grindal (b. 1943) © 1983, Hope Publishing Co.; Music: Sterling, Joy F. Patterson (b. 1931), © 1990, Hope Publishing Co.

The Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>2</sup>Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and

more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

"'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

### THE SERMON

The Rev. John D. Sundara (9:00 am)
The Rev. Reagan W. Cocke (11:15 am)

# THE NICENE CREED Congregation stands.

**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.

# THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, Form IV revised

**BCP 388** 

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

Congregation kneels.

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. We pray for persecuted Christians around the world and for all who are endangered for their religious beliefs.

Silence



Leader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and

peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Bless

and support our ministry partners, especially Mission Success.

Silence

Cantor: Lord, in your mercy

People: 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

Cantor: Lord, in your mercy People: 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.

Silence

Cantor: Lord, in your mercy People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Thank you for all the blessings of this life, especially the birth of Georgia Elizabeth

Graney, that she may grow in knowledge and love of you.

Silence

Cantor: Lord, in your mercy People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially

John, Sally, Lisa, Bruce, Karen, Cynthia, Zoe, Andy, Ellen, Susan, Patricia,

Alfonso, Brian, Lauren, Madeline, Suzanne, and Temple; give them

courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Cantor: Lord, in your mercy People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Karen Cambias,

Meredith Stone, David Boyles, Carr Burgoyne, Scott Thompson, and Charley McCollum, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may

share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Cantor: Lord, in your mercy People: Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

### THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 360

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

Silence may be kept.

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.

Celebrant: 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 Congregation stands.

**BCP 360** 

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

People: And also with you.

### THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your financial offerings fuel ministries that Change Lives for God in Christ. You may make your Sunday offering in one of two ways:

■ By placing your offering in the plate during the Offertory or

By scanning the QR code with your phone.



# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## THE OFFERTORY

Anthem

George Frideric Handel 1685-1759

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, 'God with us.'

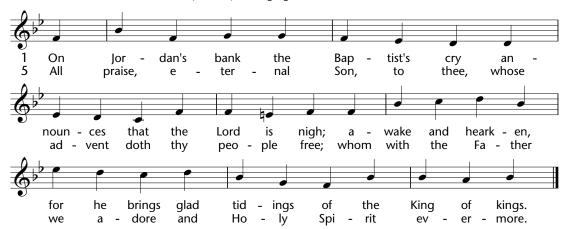
Text: Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain.
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God! Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Text: Isaiah 40:9; 60:1

Ioshua Chavira, countertenor

# PRESENTATION HYMN 76 (vs. 1,5) Congregation stands.



Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); Music: Winchester New from Musicalishes Hand-Buch, 1690.

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.

Celebrant: 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:



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.\_\_\_\_

Setting by Robert Powell; Text © by The Church Pension Fund.

Congregation kneels.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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.

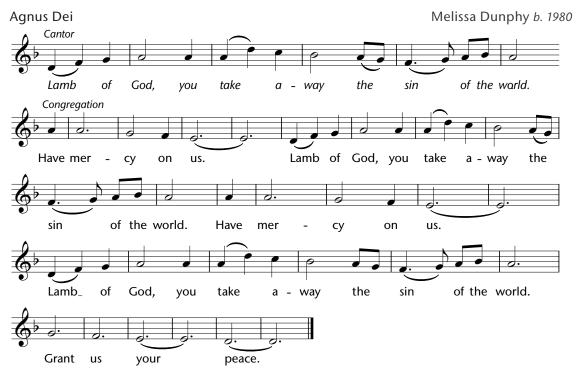
And lead us not into temptation,

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



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### Celebrant:

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.

- All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
- If you are not baptized, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing.
- ♣ If you are not baptized and want to be, please contact one of the clergy.
- ₱ Please be guided by the ushers to the communion rail.
- You may drink from the common chalice or intinct from the intinction cup.
- Gluten-free wafers are available upon request at the altar rail.
- 蚤 After receiving communion, Prayer Ministers are present in the East Bay for prayer.



Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861; Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table. People, look East and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

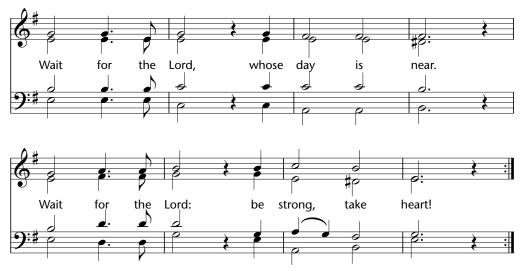
Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there; Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look East and sing today; Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim. Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look East and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast, Him who cometh from the East. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look East and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

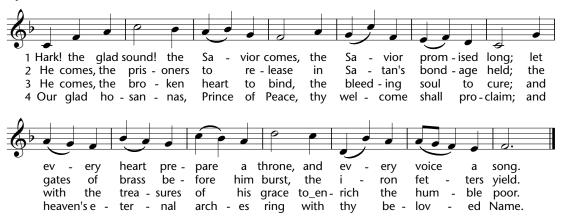
Text: Eleanor Farjeon 1881-1965

Song **Jacques Berthier** 



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Words: Phillip Doddridge (1702-1751); Music: Richmond, Thomas Haweis (1734-1820), adapt. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816).

# THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER Congregation stands.

**BCP 365** 

Celebrant: 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;

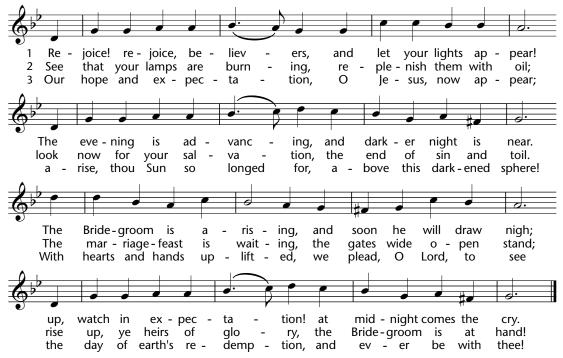
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

**Book of Occasional Services 11** 

Celebrant: May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen*.





Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); Music: Llangloffan from Hymnau a Thonau er Gwansanaeth yr Egluys yng Nghymru, 1865.

THE DISMISSAL

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Fantasy on Veni, Emmanuel

Robert J. Powell 1932-2025

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#### TODAY'S MUSICAL OFFERING

Keep in touch with SJD Music at our blog: sjdmusic.wordpress.com.

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as *Gaudete Sunday*. The day takes its name from the Latin word Gaudete ("Rejoice"), the first word of the Introit of this day's mass: *Gaudete in Domino semper* (Rejoice in the Lord Always, and again, I say rejoice.... Philippians 4:4-6, today's appointed Epistle reading). In keeping with the theme of Rejoicing, we light the rose-colored candle of the Advent wreath and sing joyful music, as we celebrate the Good News of Christ's coming. Hymns include "The Desert shall rejoice," "Hark a thrilling voice is sounding," and "Rejoice! rejoice believers."

At the Offertory, countertenor Joshua Chavira and the Chorale sing "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings" from Handel's *Messiah*. The music is written in the style of a sprightly Baroque dance or Gigue (Jig). At the ministration, we hear the Advent carol "People, look East the time is near." The author, Eleanor Farjeon, was best known for her children's nursery rhymes. Perhaps that is partially why she captures so well the mood of preparing for Advent and Christmas ("trim the hearth and set the table") as well as the anticipation for Jesus' return ("Love, the Rose, is on the way").



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### **CLERGY**

The Rev. Dr. R. Leigh Spruill, Rector
The Rev. Reagan W. Cocke, Senior Vice Rector
The Rev. John D. Sundara, Vice Rector
The Rev. Louise Samuelson, Associate Rector
The Rev. Trent Pettit, Associate Rector
The Rev. Libby Garfield, Associate Rector
The Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Richnow, Priest Associate
The Most Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Bishop in Residence
The Rev. Sutton Lowe, Curate
The Rev. Dr. Charles M. Stiernberg, Deacon

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John Meier, Associate Director of Music
Anna Teagarden, Associate Director of Music
Grace Jackson, Hancock Intern for Church Music
Sarah Gividen, Director of Modern Music
Nick Gividen, Associate Director of Modern Music

