

ADVENT WEEK 3 INSERT

Sat. 11 Dec 5pm & Sun. 12 Dec 11am



Prelude: *“The Holly and the Ivy”*, , British traditional carol, arr by Doreen Oberg
Dec 2018

Opening Hymn *“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”* #66

Advent Wreath lighting: *O Come O Come Emmanuel vs. 5 & 6* #56

Closing Hymn *“Soon and very Soon We are going to see the King”* **G** #758

Postlude: *“Go, Tell It On The Mountains”* traditional spiritual, arr by John Purifoy

This weekend’s Servers:

Sat 5 pm:

LEM: Ed Stone

Lector: Robin ST. Clair

Sun 11 am:

LEM: Sherry Simon

Lector: Maryjane Mahland

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 for ever.

Amen.

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments
against you,

he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your
midst;

you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach
for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and
praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Canticle 9 The First Song of Isaiah *(Read aloud in unison)*

**Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be
afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my
sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with
rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call
upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the
peoples; ***

**see that they remember that his
Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has
done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring
out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of
you is the Holy One of Israel.
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.**

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

.Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Luke 3:7-18

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Reader

The Gospel of the Lord

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ

St Stephen's Announcements Dec 9-15 2021

Mark Sowards our Parish Administrator and Tech Guru Extraordinaire is having ankle surgery on Nov 30th and will be out of the office and off his feet for several weeks. Volunteers to help with the office tasks and with the camera operation on Sunday are appreciated. Mark is unsure exactly how many days he will be unavailable... need to see how the surgery goes. Please see Rev. Allison to volunteer.

Training for Lectors (Readers) and Eucharistic Ministers coming December Saturday Dec 4th starting at 9am in the church. Lector training should only take about 20 minutes. Eucharistic Minister training will follow at 9:30am for about half an hour. Alternate training date/time is Wednesday 10:30am Dec. 8th. All who are interested in becoming Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, or both should see Rev. Allison to let her know how many to plan for training.

Coats for Kids of Cochise County – The Big Red Box on our porch is for donations of coats for kids in our county. Please donate new or gently used, clean coats. Donations can be made from now through Dec 15th. All sizes of kids thru young adult.

Advent Study – “I Witness” – Booklets available on table near front door of church. Adult forum to discuss each week's readings Sat 4pm and Sunday 12:30pm starting on November 28th. One book per household please. All are welcome and encouraged to join the discussion.

Vestry Meeting Dec 16th 5:15pm in Ed Bldg

Blue Christmas at St. Raphael's on Sunday December 19th 4:30pm - For those who are mourning a loss this Christmas season, this is a space and time to feel your not so holly jolly emotions.

Christmas Eve Service Friday Dec 24th 6pm. No worship service Saturday Dec 25th. Christmas “Day” Service on Sunday Dec 26th 11am.

ALL Worshippers – Please recycle your bulletins for Advent. They will be reused each week with new lectionary inserts.

Christmas bonus - Each year we like to offer a Christmas bonus to our staff. Please donate to the employee purse for Mark, Doreen, and Deborah our new sexton to give them a nice end of the year gift.