



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

Sunday 17 Dec 10am 2023



Prelude: "*The Holly and The Ivy*", Traditional English tune, by Doreen Oberg",

Welcome and Announcements

Rev Allison Cornell

Greeting

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

People **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - #54 vs.1-2: #54 Savior of the nations, come!
(Congregation sings while the candle(s) on the wreath are lighted)

Advent**54**

1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397);
tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)
Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524

77. 77

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

All: 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 Word of God *(please be seated for the lessons)*

First Reading : Judges 13:2-7:

Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, and his name was Manoah. His wife was barren; she had never given birth. And the messenger of the HOLY ONE appeared to the woman and said to her, "Look now, you are barren, having never given birth, you shall conceive and give birth to a son. Now please be on guard not to drink wine or strong drink, and you shall not eat anything unclean. For look! You shall yet conceive and give birth to a son. No razor shall be upon his head, for a Nazirite to God shall the boy be from the womb. And he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines." Then the woman came and spoke to her husband saying, "Someone from God came to me, and their appearance was like that of a messenger of God, incredibly awesome; I did not ask the messenger from where they came, and their name they did not tell me. Yet they said to me, 'You shall conceive and give birth to a son; do not drink wine or strong drink, and do not eat anything taboo, for a Nazirite to God shall the boy be from the womb unto the day of his death.'"

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 115:9-15

9 Israel, trust in the HOLY ONE OF OLD!

Their help and their shield is she.

10 House of Aaron, trust in the HOLY ONE OF SINAI!

Their help and their shield is she.

11 You who revere the HOLY ONE, trust in the HOLY ONE!

Their help and their shield is she.

12 The FAITHFUL ONE remembers us;

she will bless; she will bless the house of Israel;

she will bless the house of Aaron.

13 She will bless those who revere GOD WHO IS HOLY,

both small and great.

14 May the GENEROUS ONE add to, increase, you all,

both you and your children.

15 May you all be blessed by the AGELESS ONE,

Maker of the heavens and the earth.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3 :

See what kind of love has our Maker given to us, that we should be called children of God; and we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know God. Beloved, now are we God's children and it has not yet been revealed what we will be. We do know that when God is revealed, we shall be like God, for we shall see God just as God is. And everyone who has this hope in God purifies themselves, just as God is pure.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke (1:46-56):

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

"My soul magnifies the Holy One, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God's own womb-slave. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God's name.

God's loving-kindness is for those who fear God from generation to generation. God has shown the strength of God's own arm; God has scattered the arrogant in the intent of their hearts. God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

God has helped God's own child, Israel, a memorial to God's mercy, just as God said to our mothers and fathers, to [Hagar and] Sarah and Abraham, to their descendants forever."

And Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then she returned to her home.

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

SERMON

The Nicene Creed All say together

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:

Leader: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

All: And grant us your salvation.

Leader: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

All: Let your people sing with joy.

Leader: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world

All: For only in you can we live in safety.

Leader: Lord keep this nation under your care;

All: And guide us in the way of justice and truth

Leader: Let your way be known upon Earth;

All: Your saving health among all nations.

Leader: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

All: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Leader: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

All: And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Leader: *In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for **The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea.***

*In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for **St. Andrew's, in Tucson.**
We acknowledge and pay respect to the first peoples of this land
especially the Apache and Tahona Odum who call this area their home.
Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints,*

All: We commend these we pray for, ourselves, and the whole creation to your unfailing love. Amen.

Confession of Sin

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

(The people stand, sit, or kneel. A short pause 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.

Absolution

Presider: 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.

Exchange of the Peace

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you

All And also with you.

The Ministers and People exchange signs of peace (peace sign, hugs, handshakes, fist bumps...)

Offertory

The Presider: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name, bring offerings and come into his courts.

Offertory Music *“I heard the voice of Jesus say”*

G#622

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Rite II Prayer B BCP p. 372

Presider *The Lord be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

Presider *Lift up your hearts.*

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider

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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, became human of the Virgin Mary his mother; that that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:

All: *Sanctus from Mass of Creation*

The people stand, sit, or kneel.

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of
hosts. Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry.
Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the
high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

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.

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,

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

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 forever. **AMEN.**

And now as Jesus taught us, we pray:

Lord's Prayer:

**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 *(In silence the Presider breaks the bread)*

Fraction Anthem:

Lamb of God S-163

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace." There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes) in the second, third, and fourth staves. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: 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 and with thanksgiving.

(In this church, everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion. The bread is gluten free and it is real wine. If you prefer to dip/intinct your bread into the wine, please come to the left altar rail. If you prefer to sip the wine from the cup, please come to the right altar rail. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, come to either rail and cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you).

Communion Music

“Sing of Mary, meek and lowly”

G#778

Birthday, Anniversary, Healing, Travel and Gratitude acknowledgement

Post Communion Prayer *The people stand as they are able.*

Presider: Let us pray:

Presider and People

**Almighty and ever-living God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.**

**To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Presider: May the simplicity, stillness, and serenity of this Advent season bring peace and fulfillment to your hearts and homes; and the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Song/Hymn *“Once he came in blessing”*

#53

The Dismissal:

Deacon: People of St. Stephen’s, what does God call us to do?

People: We are called to love and serve.

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia, alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

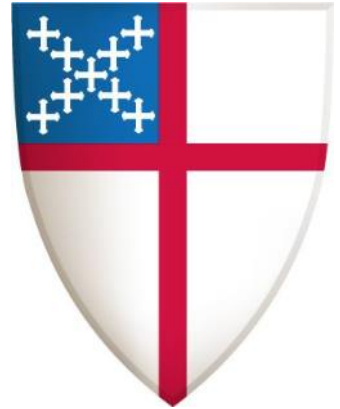
Postlude : "Goodwill", by Doreen J Oberg



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Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

Name _____ (first) _____ (Mid.) _____ (Last)

Hm: _____ Cell _____

Email: _____ Anv. Date _____

Adrs: _____ BrthDate _____

City, St., Zip: _____, _____, _____