

Saint Thomas's Church

The Third Sunday in Advent
Sunday, December 12, 2021

Evensong at 4:00 pm

on Zoom
followed by Coffee Hour



Saint John the Baptist, Luca di Tommè, c. 1380
J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

Saint Thomas's Anglican Church

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Officiant: Fr. Humphrey
Organist & Director of Music: Matthew Whitfield

PRELUDE: Jesu, meine Freude, BWV 610, *J.S. Bach*

HYMN 59 – The Advent of our King

- 1 The Advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.
- 2 The Everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be;
Himself a servant's form puts on,
To set his servants free.
- 3 Daughter of Sion, rise
To meet thy lowly King;
Nor let thy faithless heart despise
The peace he comes to bring.
- 4 As Judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again,
And his true members all unite
With him in heaven to reign.
- 5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone;
The old man all be put away,
The new man all put on.
- 6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever One,
Through all eternity.

V / O Lord, open thou our lips;
R / **And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

V / O God, make speed to save us;
R / **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

V / Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
R / **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

V / Praise ye the Lord;
R / **The Lord's Name be praised.**

PSALM: 13, *Tone III,4*

- 1 How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord, for ever? /
how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?
- 2 How long shall I seek counsel in my soul, and be so vexed in my heart? /
how long shall mine enemy triumph over me?
- 3 Consider and hear me, O Lord my God; /
lighten mine eyes, that I sleep not in death;
- 4 Lest mine enemy say, 'I have prevailed against him'; /
for if I be cast down, they that trouble me will rejoice.
- 5 But my trust is in thy mercy, / and my heart is joyful in thy salvation.
- 6 I will sing unto the Lord, because he hath dealt so lovingly with me; /
yea, I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

PSALM: 14, *Tone IV,6*

- 1 The fool hath said in his heart, / 'There is no God.'
- 2 They are corrupt, and become abominable in their doings; /
there is none that doeth good, no not one.
- 3 The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, /
to see if there were any that would understand, and seek after God.
- 4 But they are all gone out of the way, they are altogether become abominable; /
there is none that doeth good, no not one.
- 5 Have they no knowledge, that they are all such workers of mischief, /
eating up my people as it were bread, and call not upon the Lord?
- 6 There were they brought in great fear, even where no fear was; /
for God is in the generation of the righteous.
- 7 As for you, ye have made a mock at the counsel of the poor; /
because he putteth his trust in the Lord.

- 8 O that salvation for Israel were come out of Sion! /
When the Lord restoreth the fortunes of his people,
9 Then shall Jacob rejoice, / and Israel shall be right glad.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 32.1-18

The First Lesson is written in the thirty-second chapter of the book of the prophet Isaiah, beginning at the first verse.

Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule in justice. Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a covert from the tempest, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land. Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed, and the ears of those who hear will hearken. The mind of the rash will have good judgment, and the tongue of the stammerers will speak readily and distinctly. The fool will no more be called noble, nor the knave said to be honorable. For the fool speaks folly, and his mind plots iniquity: to practice ungodliness, to utter error concerning the LORD, to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied, and to deprive the thirsty of drink. The knaveries of the knave are evil; he devises wicked devices to ruin the poor with lying words, even when the plea of the needy is right. But he who is noble devises noble things, and by noble things he stands.

Rise up, you women who are at ease, hear my voice; you complacent daughters, give ear to my speech. In little more than a year you will shudder, you complacent women; for the vintage will fail, the fruit harvest will not come. Tremble, you women who are at ease, shudder, you complacent ones; strip, and make yourselves bare, and gird sackcloth upon your loins. Beat upon your breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine, for the soil of my people growing up in thorns and briars; yea, for all the joyous houses in the joyful city. For the palace will be forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and the watchtower will become dens for ever, a joy of wild asses, a pasture of flocks; until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.

Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust for ever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

THE MAGNIFICAT
Canticles: *Tone II, 2*

MY soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded / the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth / all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me; / and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him / throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm; /
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, /
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things; /
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy / hath holpen his servant Israel;
As he promised to our forefathers, / Abraham and his seed for ever.
GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, / and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, / world without end. Amen.

SECOND LESSON – Matthew 3

The Second Lesson is written in the third chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, beginning at the first verse.

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit that befits repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Canticles: *Tone II, 1*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, / according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, /
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, / and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, / and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, /
world without end. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God
the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church;
The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

V / The Lord be with you;
R / **And with thy spirit.**
V / Let us pray.

V / Lord, have mercy upon us.
R / **Christ, have mercy upon us.**
V / Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE 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 them that trespass against us; And lead us not into
temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

Priest: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
People: **And grant us thy salvation.**
Priest: O Lord, save the Queen;
People: **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**
Priest: Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
People: **And make thy chosen people joyful.**
Priest: O Lord, save thy people;
People: **And bless thine inheritance.**
Priest: Give peace in our time, O Lord;
People: **And evermore mightily defend us.**
Priest: O God, make clean our hearts within us;
People: **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.
O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy
way before thee: Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise
so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the
wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an
acceptable people in thy sight; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy
Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

COLLECT OF ADVENT

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

(the General Thanksgiving may be said.)

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, We thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks For all thy goodness and loving-kindness To us and to all men; We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; But above all for thine inestimable love In the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; For the means of grace, And for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, That our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, And that we show forth thy praise, Not only with our lips, but in our lives; By giving up ourselves to thy service, And by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, To whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

A PRAYER OF SAINT CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.
Amen.

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

2 Corinthians 13.14