



830 Romancoke Road
Stevensville, MD 21666
ccpki.org
410.643.5921

Christ Episcopal Church Day School
cecds.org
410.643.8248



The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

The Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, Bishop of Easton
The Rev. Mark Delcuze, Rector
Dr. Gary Van Essen, Minister of Music
Lisa Oesterling, Coordinator of Christian Formation
Brenda Faulkner, Parish Administrator

The Holy Eucharist and Baptism: Rite Two

The Word of God

Welcome & Advent Wreath Lighting

The Rev. Mark S. Delcuze

+Processional Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

vss. 1, 2 & 5

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

+Opening Sentences

Celebrant
People

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

You come to your people and set them free.

+Collect for Purity (said by all)

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.

Celebrant Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
People **Have mercy upon us.**

+The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God 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 First Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and

wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God**

The Psalm

Psalm 126

Read responsively by verse.

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, ***
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 **The LORD has done great things for us, ***
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 **Those who sowed with tears ***
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God**

Anthem "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" -Greek; tr. Brownlie/Jones
Colleen Minahan, tenor

+The Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Please stand and face the Celebrant

Celebrant A Reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
People **Glory to you Lord Christ**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

The Homily

The Rev. Mark S. Delcuze

+The Nicene Creed

Note the change in the wording, most especially with regard to the Holy Spirit. These are not errors in the bulletin, but are part of our rich liturgical heritage. The wording about the procession of the Holy Spirit is part of the difference in the Eastern and Western Churches, and a source of controversy. In fact, in 1994, at our 71st General Convention, it was decided to remove the words “and the Son.”

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

Deacon or other leader

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

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.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

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.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

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

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

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

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

+Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

(A period of silence is kept)

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

+Absolution *(Enriching our Worship 1, p. 56)*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

+The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

The Lord's Prayer

People and Celebrant

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with you now.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. **Amen.**

+Blessing

Announcements

+Recessional Hymn

Blessed Be the God of Israel

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1. Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
2. Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace is given;
3. On pris - on - ers of dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,

who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,

The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;

God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.
the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

Dismissal

The Celebrant dismisses them with these words

Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

Serving This Week

Online Readers: Charlie Mead, Mike Parker

Altar Guild: Sally Lewis, Eileen Shreve, Anne Tyler

Counters: Judy Peppel, Rosemary McCambridge

Please pray for: Angela & Trent, Baby girl Claibaugh, Peggy Brengle, Lynda Brody, Buck Buckingham, Aubree Burton, Camp Wright, Chris, Connie Clark, Scott & Lynn Clark, Jane Coppage, Wendy Costello (RIP), Corie Davis, Bryan Dalheim (RIP), Bob & Laura Dean, Deny, Paul Dorr, Jim Ewing, Susan Fralic, Jim Gallagher, Dave Grapes, David Grimes (RIP), Rick H (RIP) & Family, Anne Habberton, Rita Hadlock, Melanie Hallowell (RIP), Liza Hamill, Ronald Hartman, Carol Holland, Jim Hoverman, Clint Hoxter, Charles Jewell, Anne Jones, Josette, Rowan & Lyla, Albie Kimbel, Jeff Kolbeins, Mike Kratzer & Family, Olivia Marguerite, Sharon McCain, Toinette McDowell, Doug McMillan & Family, Bob Meile, Greg Middleton (RIP), Faith Miller, Renee O'Rourke, Camilla Parrott, Al Peppel, John Perkins, Gail Renborg, Rick & Christina, John Riley, Jeff Rouse, Adele & David Sadiq, Judy Schubrook, Kirsten Shelek (RIP), Donna & Rob Sherwood, Anna Sisson, Jeffrey Thomas, Ian Vansant & Family, Monty Wells (RIP), Kathy & Roger Whitehead, Larry Wilkens, Candace Williams, Bob Willis, Lee Wilson (RIP), Jack Wright, Geoff Young (RIP)

JOIN US **LIVING WELL THROUGH ADVENT 2020**

Advent begins Today! (**Zoom Meeting ID:** 822 6393 0246) at 7:00 pm. Send us an email if you would like a weekly reminder.

December 15 The Power of Hope
December 22 Grounding our Hope in God

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Save the Dates:

December 20 7:30 pm Online Service for the Longest Night
December 24 4:00 pm Tentative Outdoor Christmas Eve Service
December 24 7:00 pm Online Christmas Eve Service Premier

Sunday Nights in Advent
Family Zoom Advent Wreath Lighting Service at 5:00 pm
12/13 – 12/20

Christmas Memorial Offering

Please PRINT clearly

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Giving # _____ Amount \$ _____