

St. Matthias Episcopal Church

Sunday, December 10, 2023

The Second Sunday of Advent

The Right Reverend Dr. Justin S. Holcomb, Bishop

The Reverend James M. Dorn III, Rector

352.460.9580 · rector@stmatthiasfl.com

7:45 am Service • Holy Eucharist Rite I

The Service is found in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) which is the red book in the pew rack.

The Word of God

Greetings and Announcements

Advent Prayer

God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Opening Acclamation

BCP, Page 323

The Collect for Purity

BCP, Page 323

Lord Have Mercy Upon Us

BCP, Page 324

Glory Be to God on High

BCP, Page 324

The Collect of the Day

Insert

The First Lesson

Insert

The Psalm *(said in unison)*

Insert

The Epistle

Insert

The Gospel

Insert

The Sermon

Father Jim Dorn

A Moment of Silence

The Nicene Creed

BCP, Page 326

The Prayers of the People

BCP, Page 328

Confession of Sin

BCP, Page 329

The Peace

BCP, Page 332

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. (*Ephesians 5:2*)

The Offertory

The Offertory Prayer *(said by all)*

Heavenly Father, thank you for all the good things you continue to provide for us. Don't let us take your gifts for granted or abuse them. Instead, help us always to rely on you in faith. Use us and what you have given us for your good purposes. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I

BCP, Page 333

The Sanctus

BCP, Page 334

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, Page 336

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP, Page 337

Prayer of Humble Access

BCP, Page 337

Administration of Communion

The Post-Communion Prayer

BCP, Page 339

Prayer for Eucharistic Visitors *(said by all)*

We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

Birthday & Anniversary Blessings

BCP, Page 830 & 431

Blessing

BCP, Page 339

Dismissal

The Collect

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Old Testament

Isaiah 40:1-11

Reader A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

“Comfort, O comfort my people,”
says your God.

“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord’s hand
double for all her sins.”

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

**You have been gracious to your land, O Lord;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.
I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

The Epistle

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Reader A Reading from the Second letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But

the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.’ ”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**