

St. Matthias Episcopal Church

Sunday, December 15, 2024

The Third Sunday of Advent

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb, Bishop

The Rev. James M. Dorn III, Rector

352.460.9580 · jmdorn3@gmail.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

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. 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

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

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

Talk to God before Church. Listen to God during Church. Talk to each other after Church.

The Collect

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.**

Old Testament

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Reader A Reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

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

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.

The Epistle
Philippians 4:4-7

Reader A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

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

Priest 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.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.