

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Third Sunday of Advent THE BANQUET · December 15, 2019 · 10 am

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.**

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

THE RESPONSE

Canticle 15

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist;
yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

RECEIVING COMMUNION

The Church believes that in Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ is given to God’s people and received by faith. All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome here and invited either to participate in Communion or to receive a blessing. To receive the bread, please hold your hands out in front of you. To receive the wine, help guide the chalice to your lips. If you prefer, you may dip the bread in the wine and then place it in your mouth. If you do not wish to receive the bread and the wine, you are invited to come forward, cross your hands across your chest, and receive a blessing. **Gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.**

COMMISSIONING OF LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR

Celebrant In the name of God and on behalf of this congregation, I 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.

People **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

IN THANKSGIVING & MEMORY

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THOSE CELEBRATING:

Birthdays in the next week: Vic Walton, Mark Upson, Anne Lilly Cone, Nathan Carlson, Brooke Kelly, James Baur, Harris Foad, Reese Kattman, William Theobald, Brian Babb, Rebecca Kappers, Charles Perez, Marilyn Blemker, Helen Ferguson, George Callard, Elizabeth Lilly, Joyce Milton.

Anniversaries in the coming week: Janice & Gary Lubin, Elise & Jon Allred, Mary Southworth & Jeff Shaffer, Gretchen & Tim Webb.

The **GREENS** that beautify our worship spaces are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Marita France McMillan Fischer by Anne Lilly & Philip Cone and in loving memory of Thomas Burleigh Boehme, her brother, by Rachel Votaw.

During the season of Advent, the Redeemer flower guild offers arrangements made exclusively of greens. Thus, we focus on the eternal nature of the evergreens on our Advent Wreath: a circular and illuminated symbol of unending life which gives hope to us in times of darkness.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Celebrant	The Rev. Mitchell Bojarski
Preacher	The Rev. Philip DeVaul
Acolytes	Anna Kirk
Sacristan	Kelli Wisecup
Lector	Andrew Cole
Psalmist	Andrea Rogers
Chalicians	Andrew Cole, Andrea Rogers
Intercessor	Bill Scharffe
Healing Prayer	Jackson Baur
AV	Jacob Senter
Ushers	Lisa Andrews, Ryan Andrews
Greeters	Bain Massey, Richard Massey, Amanda Rasche
Bankers	Dick Adams, Michael Hardy, Michael Staffiera (alt.)
Bread Guild	Ryan Andrews, Blake Gustafson , Carol Hall
Flower Guild	Francie Morrison, Denise Beauchamp, Laurie Maguire, Courtney Vice
Altar Guild	Kelli Wisecup, Adrea Beatty, Julie Joyce, Sheila Maxwell, Rachel Votaw
Children's Liturgy	Brad Gough, Laurie McKernan

