

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Third Sunday of Advent · Rite I Holy Eucharist · December 15, 2019 · 8 am

Our service begins on page 323 in the blue Book of Common Prayer.

THE COLLECT

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, 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 3

My soul doth magnify the Lord, *
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
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 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 SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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? Some-

one 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.”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant As we eagerly await the coming of our Lord and Savior who brings light into our weary world, we turn to you, O God, with our concerns and thanksgivings, saying:
Comfort your people, O God.

Following each petition, the people respond

Let your light shine in our hearts.

The Celebrant concludes:

Comfort, comfort your people, O God. Cause a new light to shine in our hearts, and keep us in hopeful expectation that you will make yourself known to us in small and generous ways as we await the coming of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Celebrant	The Rev. Joyce Keeshin
Preacher	The Rev. Gary Lubin
Deacon	The Rev. Gary Lubin
Lector	Sarah-Theresa Y. Murakami
Lay Reader	Mike Firesheets
Intercessor	John Schenk
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



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