



THE CHURCH
OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

The Order for Morning Prayer

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

Opening Sentences

Officiant The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together. *Isaiah 40:5*

Confession of Sin

¶ The Officiant says

DEARLY BELOVED, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

¶ Officiant and People, all kneeling

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;
And there is no health in us.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

‡ *The Officiant alone stands and says*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution † and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit.

‡ *People Amen.*

‡ *All stand*

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.

People And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

All 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.

‡ *All say the Invitatory Canticle together, as follows*

Invitatory Canticle

Venite, exultemus

PSALM 95:1-7, 96:9, 13

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; *
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, *
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are all the corners of the earth, *
and the strength of the hills is his also.
The sea is his and he made it, *
and his hands prepared the dry land.
O come, let us worship and fall down *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is the Lord our God, *
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, *
and with righteousness to judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

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.

‡ *All are then seated for the Psalm appointed for the day*

When the Lord turned again the captivity of Sion, *
then were we like unto them that dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with joy.

Then said they among the heathen, *
The Lord hath done great things for them.

Yea, the Lord hath done great things for us already; *
whereof we rejoice.

Turn our captivity, O Lord, *
as the rivers in the south.

They that sow in tears *
shall reap in joy.

He that now goeth on his way weeping, and beareth forth good seed, *
shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him.

¶ At the conclusion of the Psalmody the Gloria Patri is said by all

Glorify 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 Lessons

The First Lesson

ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD GOD is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to 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; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. 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 wrong; 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 in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul 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 forth before all the nations.

¶ *Following the Lesson, all stand for the Canticle*

Canticle *Surge, illuminare*

ISAIAH 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, *
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, *
and gross darkness the people:
But the Lord shall arise upon thee, *
and his glory shall be seen upon thee.
And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, *
and kings to the brightness of thy rising.
Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; *
they shall not be shut day nor night.
They shall call thee, The city of the Lord, *
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, *
wasting nor destruction within thy borders;
But thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, *
and thy gates Praise.
The sun shall be no more thy light by day; *
neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee:
But the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, *
and thy God thy glory.

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.

¶ *All are seated*

The Second Lesson

JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

THERE WAS A MAN SENT FROM GOD, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" And he answered, "No." They said to him then, "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 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, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but among you stands one whom you do not know, even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." This took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

¶ *Following the Lesson, all stand for the Canticle*

Canticle *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

LUKE 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, *
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us *
in the house of his servant David,
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, *
which have been since the world began:
That we should be saved from our enemies, *
and from the hand of all that hate us;
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, *
and to remember his holy covenant;
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham, *
that he would give us,
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies *
might serve him without fear,
In holiness and righteousness before him, *
all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, *
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord
to prepare his ways;
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people *
for the remission of their sins,
Through the tender mercy of our God, *
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;
To give light to them that sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

¶ *All remain standing for the Apostles' Creed*

The Apostles' Creed

¶ Said by the Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, ✠
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

¶ The Officiant and People say the following

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

¶ Then the short form of the Lord's Prayer is said by all, kneeling

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

¶ *Then follow these Suffrages, said by the Officiant and People*

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

People And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

People And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People For only in thee can we live in safety.

Officiant Lord, keep this nation under thy care;

People And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Officiant Let thy way be known upon earth;

People Thy saving health among all nations.

Officiant Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

People Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Officiant Create in us clean hearts, O God;

People And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.

The Collects

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, world without end. ¶ *People Amen.*

OGOD, THE KING ETERNAL, who dividest the day from the night and turnest the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep thy law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done thy will with cheerfulness while it was day, we may, when the night cometh, rejoice to give thee thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¶ *People Amen.*

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, by whose Spirit the whole body of thy faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before thee for all members of thy holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ¶ *People Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

¶ Said by the Officiant and People together

ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants do give
thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all men.

We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

¶ Said by the Officiant

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make
our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved
Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the
midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be
best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life
everlasting. *¶ People Amen.*

¶ All stand

Benedicamus Domino

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

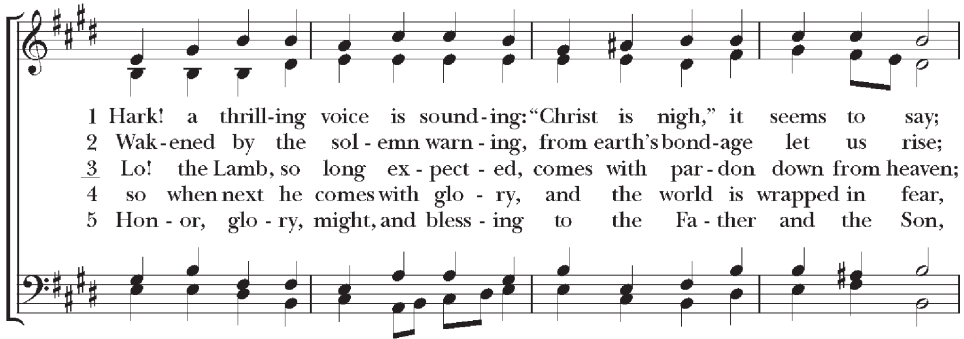
People Thanks be to God.

The Grace

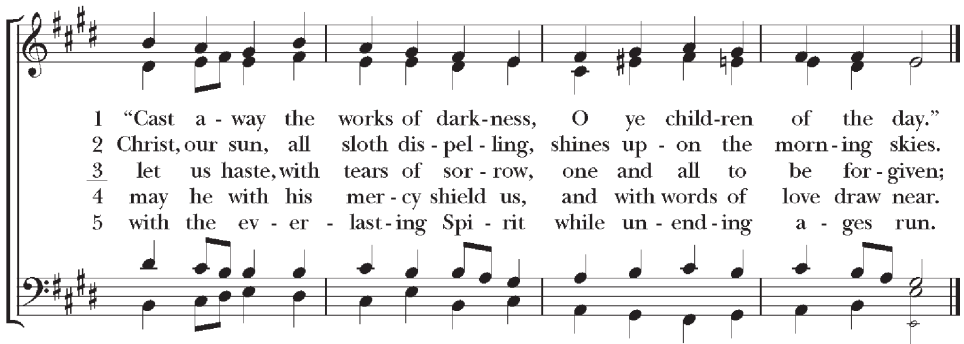
♩ Officiant

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *♩ People Amen.*

Hymn



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn- ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex- spect- ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo- ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon- or, glo- ry, might, and bless- ing to the Fa- ther and the Son,



1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, 6th-century

Music: MERTON: William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

Sermon

The Rev. Peter James Speropolus

Anthem

Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
O Christ, thou Saviour of us all,
We pray thee, hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse
Didst doom to death a universe,
Thou camest, Saviour, to set free
Thine own in glorious liberty.

When this old world drew on toward night
Thou camest, not in splendour bright
As monarch, but as little child
Of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At thy great name, O Jesus, now
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
All things on earth with one accord,
Like those in heaven shalt call thee Lord.

Come in thy holy might, we pray,
Redeem for us eternal day;
Defend us while we dwell below
From all assaults of our dread foe.

To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Laud, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally.
Amen.

Words: Latin, 9th-century

Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM: Setting by Robert Lehman (2020)

Closing Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

‡ *All kneel*

¶ Then Prayers and Intercessions are offered

O GOD, THE CREATOR and preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. *¶ People Amen.*

O ALMIGHTY GOD, kindle, we beseech thee, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with thy wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquillity thy dominion may increase till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *¶ People Amen.*

HEAVENLY FATHER, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve thy sick servants, and give thy power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in thy loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *¶ People Amen.*

LOOK WITH PITY, O heavenly Father, upon all thy children who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us and forgive us our sins of deed or neglect against these our neighbors. Give strength to those who work for justice and opportunity for all, and grant that all may enjoy the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *¶ People Amen.*

O GOD, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldest have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *¶ People Amen.*


ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in thy Son's Name: We beseech thee mercifully to incline thine ear to us who have now made our prayers and supplications unto thee; and grant that those things which we have faithfully asked according to thy will, may effectually be obtained, to the relief of our necessity, and to the setting forth of thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *¶ People Amen.*

The Advent Blessing

MAY ALMIGHTY GOD, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *¶ People Amen.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *¶ People Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *¶ People Amen.*

And the blessing  of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *¶ People Amen.*

Liturgical Music

The final musical compositions of Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) were his *Eleven Chorale Preludes* for organ of which *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen* (*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming*), which begins today's liturgy, is one. The familiar tune is well disguised within the lush harmonic vocabulary and the chromatic movement of the melody, but the sheer beauty of the work has cemented its place in the Advent and Christmas repertoire. It is heard this morning in an arrangement for strings.

Translated from the Latin, the text of the hymn *Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding* is based on Romans 13:11 and Luke 21:25. The sturdy melody summons us to heed John the Baptist's powerful message. This hymn has been authorized for use in Episcopal hymnals since 1865.

The ancient plainsong tune *Conditor alme siderum* (*Creator of the stars of night*) has long been associated with the season of Advent. In the setting heard this morning, the random ringing of high-pitched bells represents the pinpoint points of light produced by the stars in the great expanse of the night sky.

The liturgy closes with another invocation of the tune *Conditor alme siderum*, this time as set by the German composer Hermann Schroeder (1904-1984). The setting marries the ancient melody with a stark, angular, and quartal accompaniment which serves to represent the infinite vastness of both the universe and God's great love across the span of the ages.



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