SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DECEMBER 20, 2015 —FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOLY Eucharist, Rite I — 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

The opening music offers a time for prayer and meditation. Please silence all devices.

GATHERING MUSIC  Nun komm, der heiden Heiland  J. S. Bach

INTROIT, COLLECT, AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH  Rorate Coeli  Plainsong
Drop down, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain justice.
Let the earth open and bring forth the Savior.
Comfort, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry:
why wilt thou waste away in sadness? Why hath sorrow seized thee?
Fear not, for I will save thee: I am the Lord they God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

Please stand, as able, at the sound of the chimes.

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND RESPONSE
Celebrant  Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
People  And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

HYMNAL #66  Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus  STUTTGART

COLLECT FOR PURITY
Book of Common Prayer p. 323

KYRIE ELEISON  S 91 (in front section of hymnal)
Lord, have mercy upon us. (3x) Christ, have mercy upon us. (3x)
Lord, have mercy upon us. (3x)

COLLECT OF THE DAY
Celebrant  The Lord be with you.
People  And with thy spirit.
Celebrant  Let us pray.

We beseech thee, almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh, he may find in us a mansion prepared for him, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

Please stand, as able, at the sound of the chimes.

SECOND READING  Hebrews 10:5-10 (remaining seated)

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.” Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God” (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will, O God” (he is in the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Mâ/Kânâshè), * stir up your strength and come / to help us.

You have fed them with the bread of / tears; * you have given them bowls of / tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our / neighbors, * and our enemies laugh / âs to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of / hóstes; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
1 Cantor  Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a / flock; *
2 And in the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Mâ/Kânâshè, *
3 Stir up your strength and come / to help us.
4 O LORD God of / hóstes, * how long will you be angered / over the prayers of / your people?
5 You have fed them with the bread of / tears; *
6 You have made us the derision of our / neighbors, *
7 And our enemies laugh / âs to scorn.

SECOND READING  Hebrews 10:5-10 (remaining seated)

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.” Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God” (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader  The Word of the Lord.
People  Thanks be to God.

Antiphon: first sung by cantor, repeated by all before and after the verse:

(You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with those around you.)

Preparé ye the way of the / Lord: * Make straight a highway / for our God.

GOSPEL  Luke 1:39-45 (46-55) (standing, if able)
In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

GOSPEL  The Gospel of the Lord.
People  Praise be to thee, O Christ.

SERMON
A period of silence is observed following the sermon.

NICENE CREED (standing, if able)  BCP p. 236

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (standing or kneeling)  BCP p. 328

Reader  . . . let us pray to the Lord.
People  Lord, have mercy.
Reader  Gracious God: All  By your love you have called us to proclaim with joy the good news of your Son: So build us up in the knowledge and love of Him, that we may welcome all people into this community of faith, and show forth our service to you in our service to others; through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

(Please pray for the Church, or for a specific need.

CONFESSION (standing or kneeling)  BCP p. 330
People  Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us: that we may delight in thy will and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

ABORTION (standing, if able)

THE PEACE (standing, if able)

Celebrant  The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People  And with thy spirit.

Are you invited to share a sign of God’s peace with those around you?

ABORTION (standing, if able)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People  And with thy spirit.

Are you invited to share a sign of God’s peace with those around you?

ABORTION (standing, if able)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People  And with thy spirit.

Are you invited to share a sign of God’s peace with those around you?

ABORTION (standing, if able)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People  And with thy spirit.

Are you invited to share a sign of God’s peace with those around you?

ABORTION (standing, if able)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People  And with thy spirit.

Are you invited to share a sign of God’s peace with those around you?

ABORTION (standing, if able)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People  And with thy spirit.

Are you invited to share a sign of God’s peace with those around you?
The Holy Communion

All are invited to share at the Lord’s table. At the altar rail you may stand or kneel to receive the bread and the wine. You may drink from the cup or touch the bread to the wine. If you prefer to receive a blessing you may indicate so by crossing your arms. The common loaf is gluten-free.

Offertory Sentence

Magnificat

The text may be found on page 3 in today’s Gospel.

Presentation

(sung by all, standing if able)

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer II

(Prayer may be followed in the BCP, p. 340.)

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And with thy spirit.

Celebrant

Lift up your hearts.

People

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is meet and right so to do.

Celebrant

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus et Benedictus

S 114 (in front section of hymnal)

(sung by all, remaining standing, if able)

(please remain standing or kneel, according to your custom.)

Celebrant

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, …

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People

AMEN.

Lord’s Prayer

Celebrant

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All

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. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Celebrant

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Distribution

Communion Music

S 158 (in front section of hymnal)

Anthem

Ave Maria

Parsons

Hymnal #60

Creator of the Stars of Night

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

Hymnal #265

The Angel Gabriel

GABRIEL’S MESSAGE

Advent Chant

Prepare the Way

Jayson R. Enquist

(Congregation please sing with the choir: A voice is calling from the wilderness, voice is calling…)

Hymnal #33

Christ, Mighty Savior

CHRISTE, LUX MUNDI

Sending Forth Our Lay Eucharistic Visitors (10 A.M.)

Celebrant

In the name 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.

Post Communion Prayer

(said by all, kneeling or standing)

Almighty and everlasting God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom.

And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in: through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Procession of the Creche Figures

Carol

Jesu lieber, Jesu mein

German Carol

(Please stand if able, for the closing hymn.)

Hymnal #438

Tell Out, My Soul

WOODLANDS

Blessing and Dismissal

Deacon

Our worship here is ended; now let our service begin. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Voluntary

Nun komm, der heiden Heiland

Gerald Near

(You are invited to move forward to the choir stalls for the final music.)

Today We Pray With

Don, Star, Bert, Wimpy, Mae, Kathleen, Linda, Glen, Norma, Ann, Mildred, Joan, Patricia, Thelma, Pat, Steve, Ginny, Jack, Camille, Susan, Pat, Christopher, Amy, Annie, Caroline, Bill and those you would add.

Altar Flowers

In thanksgiving for the life of The Right Reverend Robert Marshall Anderson

Assisting in both Services Today

Celebrant

The Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson

Preacher

The Reverend Barbara Mraz

Deacon

The Reverend Margaret Thor

Altar Guild

Pat Brynteson, Caroline Krall, Nan Lightner, Phyliss Merrill, Elaine Sutton, Jill Thompson

Assisting in the 8AM Service Today

Verger

Phillip Baird

Reader

Joan McCann

Assisting in the 10AM Service Today

Adult Choir

Jayson R. Enquist, Director of Music and Organist

Instrumentalists

Bell ringers, Recorder consort, Percussion ensemble

Acolytes

Madeline Weinkauf, Eli Weinkauf, Tessa Johnson, Maren Johnson, Eliot Wall

Reader

Keith Davis

Verger

Holly Stoerker, Carole Selin

Ushers

Patty Pflalz Byrne, Marvin Cadwell, Terri Fischel, Alex Joyce

Greeters

Jennifer Kinkead, Sally Sand, Don Weinkauf

Coffee Hour

Alden Drew, Minnie Pollard

Please visit the St. John’s website - stjohnsstpaul.org - for more information.