



The Holy Eucharist

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 a.m. Sunday, December 11, 2016

*Newcomers and visitors, we welcome you warmly.
May you find here, by the grace of God, that which feeds your soul.
May you leave here with a heart prepared to serve.*

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING ACCLAMATION

all stand

BCP, page 323

Celebrant Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

adapted from The Rev. Matthew Kozlowski

Celebrant Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent Wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and the third candle is JOY.

The candle is lit.

Celebrant You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. - *Isaiah 55:12*

People **Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

all say together

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

TRISAGION

said three times

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Celebrant Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
People **Have mercy upon us.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

ADVENT PRAYER FOR INTERIM TIME all say together

O God, in this season of expectation be with us as we seek a new Rector.

Mercifully direct us as we search for a leader to guide us in the way of your son, Jesus, as we strive to illuminate the darkness of the world with His light. Instill in us a vision of Christ's family, that, guided by your Holy Spirit, we may be filled with hope, united in love, and joyful in pursuing our mission here on earth. In the name of Christ, our mediator and redeemer, we pray. Amen.

FIRST READING

all sit

Isaiah 35:1-10

PSALM 146:4-9

read responsively by half verse

BCP, p. 803

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

THE HOLY GOSPEL

all stand

Matthew 11:2-11

Response after the Deacon introduces the Gospel
Response at the end of the Gospel reading

Glory be to thee, O Lord.
Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE HOMILY

The Very Rev. Dr. Don Brown

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the
Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our
salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became
incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in
accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand
of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his
kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and
the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader In the waning light of Advent, we embrace the mystery of waiting.

People **O God, give us patience to rest in this season of anticipation.**

Leader All that is becoming is hidden from our sight.

People **O God, help us to trust your promise of the light that is to come.**

Leader Your people share feelings of longing and passion for a world of justice and peace.

People **O God, be a lamp before our feet on this journey.**

Leader The saints did not hide their light under a basket, but served as torchbearers of love.

People **O God, make us reflections of your love to those who need it most.**

Leader Countless memories of all who have died bring both grief and hope.

People **O God, we await the birth of the marriage of heaven and earth.**

Leader We pray especially for those who have invited our concern ...

The Deacon offers prayers from the St. Mary's Prayer List
and invites the congregation to add theirs.

Deacon Life-giving God, you hovered over the waters of the deep before all time began. Hover over our anxious hearts, heavy with worry and vibrant with hope, that in this season of anticipation we might faithfully tend the mysteries before us and prepare joyfully for your coming again. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN all kneel or stand

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

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.**

Celebrant Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II all stand

BCP, page 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 unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

The celebrant continues...

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

BCP, page 341

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand. The Celebrant continues....

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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All those who wish to are invited to hold hands during this prayer.

**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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

all stand and say together

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Almighty and everliving 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.

SENDING OF THE LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR *

*when needed

Celebrant N., in the name of this parish family, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts to _____. Together we share in the body and blood of Christ.

People **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup.**

THE BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Upcoming Events

at The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin

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|-------------|-----------------|--|
| December 17 | 1:00 pm | Caroling on Union Street with St. Mary's Parish Choir |
| December 18 | 9:00 & 11:00 am | A Service of Lessons & Carols
St. Mary's Children's Choir and Parish Choir |
| December 24 | 3:00 pm | Christmas Pageant
Costumed players and live animals |
| | 5:00 pm | Christmas Eve Eucharist with Children's & Youth Choirs |
| | 8:30 pm | Candlelight Carol Sing
Parish Choir and Brass Ensemble |
| | 9:00 pm | Candlelight Eucharist
Parish Choir and Brass Ensemble |
| December 25 | 10:00 am | Holy Eucharist with Carols |

LITURGICAL STAFF

The Very Rev. Dr. Donald G. Brown
Interim Rector

The Rev. Dr. Deborah White
Interim Co-Rector

The Rev. Claire Dietrich Ranna
Associate Rector

Eric Choate
Interim Director of Music

Marla Perkins
Interim Children's Choir Director

Natalie Hala
Verger & Liturgist

The Rev. Tim Smith
Deacon

The Rev. Nancy Bryan
Deacon

