



Third Sunday of Advent

Epiphany Parish

December 14, 2025 – 10:00am

Rite II



We gather with joy in the power of Jesus' name, to care for one another and to include all people through our fellowship, education & outreach.

The Prelude

The Advent Wreath Liturgy: Joy

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. (Psalm 100:1-2)

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:8-11)

The Opening Hymn

H# 68, Rejoice! rejoice, believers

The Sunday School Song

'This is the Day'

This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord has made.

The Word of God

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

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

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The Collect of the Day (in Unison)

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 11:1-10

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 Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm 146:4-9

⁴ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

⁵ Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

⁶ Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

⁷ The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

⁸ The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

⁹ The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

The Epistle 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 Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn

H# 268, Ye who claim the faith of Jesus

The Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Christen H. Mills

The Nicene Creed

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The Prayers for the People Form III

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The Confession of Sin

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The Peace

The Offertory Hymn

"Lo, how a rose e'er blooming"

Sung by Choir

The Doxology

H#380(verse 3)



The Eucharistic Prayer B

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The Sanctus

S-130

The Lord's Prayer

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The Breaking of the Bread

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The Communion Hymn

H# 437, Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

The Post Communion Prayer

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Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The Welcome & Announcements

The Closing Hymn

H# 539, O Zion, haste thy mission fulfilling

The Dismissal

Invitation for Spiritual Communion— *This prayer is a personal prayer that you can say when you desire communion but are unable to receive the sacrament.* Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Let me never be separated from you. *Amen.*

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