

THIRD OF ADVENT DECEMBER 13, 2020

Prelude

“Still Still Still”

Announcements

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle (the candle is lit as the following is read)

This is the candle of joy. In the First Epistle of Peter we read: “...though you do not now know Jesus, you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy.”

Christian joy is not mere happiness. It is an abiding sense of Christ’s presence that can transform the darkest night. As disciples of Jesus, we seek to receive this joy, and to hand it on to others.

Confession & Absolution

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sins, and whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to 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 your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(Silence for reflection)

Most merciful God:

C **We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**



Opening Hymn

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.

Refrain

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Refrain

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Refrain

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Refrain

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new.

Refrain

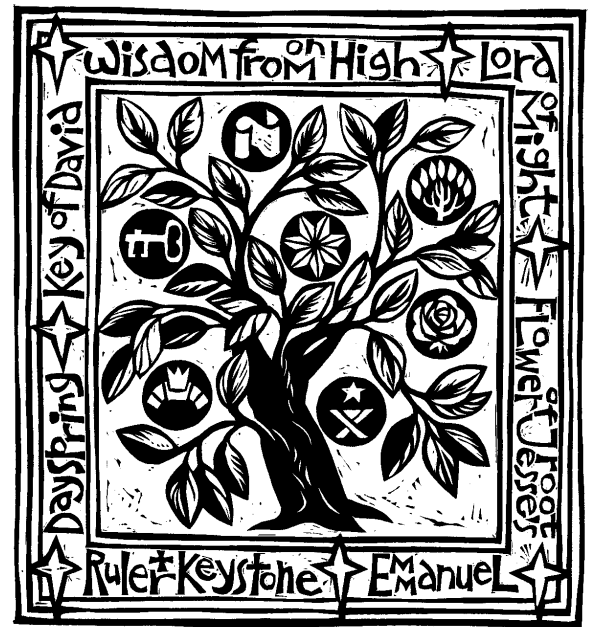
8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr.
composite

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Apostolic Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Kyrie

P Lord have mercy. **C Lord have mercy.**

P Christ have mercy. **C Christ have mercy.**

P Lord have mercy. **C Lord have mercy.**

Prayer of the Day

P Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading - Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to provide for 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. They will be called oaks of righteousness the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. ⁴ 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. ⁸ For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; 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 among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being 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. ¹¹ 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 up before all the nations.

P Holy wisdom, holy word.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Song

“Hope, Peace, Joy and Love”

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
'The Lord has done great things for them.'

3 The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

5 May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

6 Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

Second Reading - I Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

P Holy wisdom, holy word. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel according John Chapter 1: 6-8, 19-28

C **Glory to you O Lord.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' ²¹And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' ²²Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' ²³He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' ²⁶John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness Lord

- 1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;
I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness,
and I am full of grace.
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age
this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me,
and holy is your name.

- 2 To all who live in holy fear
your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud,
their scheming hearts expose.
The ruthless you have cast aside,
the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things,
the rich sent off unfed.

- 3 To Israel, your servant blest,
your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made
their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One,
give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,
one God, by all adored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
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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

Prayers of the People

AM With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all God's creation.

For the Church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the Gospel, Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM For the well-being of all creation. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM For peace and justice in the world, for all nations, for all in authority, and for our community. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM For the poor, oppressed, the sick, bereaved and lonely. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM For St. Paul's, its members and mission, and for any other needs you may now raise in your homes.....Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Thanksgiving of the Word

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C We give you thanks and praise.

P By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C We give you thanks and praise.

P Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C **We give you thanks and praise.**

P Send forth your Spirit of truth, O God: rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C **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,
 forever and ever. Amen**

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you, the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.

C **Amen.**



Closing Hymn

“Joy to the World”

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Dismissal

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and your neighbors.
C Amen.

Postlude

“On Christmas Night”



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

The following is a listing of those who need your prayers. Our hope is that you will take this listing home with you and in your daily prayers remember those listed below.

Jim Abbott
Francine Ahrens
Pat Alexander
Vinnie Aparo
Edie Balkun
Elana Barkasy
Raymond Bazzolo
Judith (Ross) Beatty
Kevin Belkofer & Family
Jim Bement
Rebecca Bement
Richard Bertoli
Gurvinder Bharara
Armando Binelli
Brian & Lisa Bodnar
Joe Brancato
Rosanne & Keith Brilliant
George Bruno
Brusseau Family
Eddie Burns
Theo & Victoria Camara
Peter Carbone, Sr.
Liz Clinton
Jill Cochrane
Nancy Colon
Wayne Crossman
Barry Demkar
Sigrid Devita
Melissa Dias
Doris & Dutch Deitman
Gerard Doll
Betsy Durstin
Diane & Paul Edwards
Judy Elliott
Bruce & Liz Falls
Christy Ferro
Elizabeth Fico
Barbra Fletcher
Holly & Elsie Florio
Ed Ford
Mary Lynn Gagnon
Gabby Gerken
Bob & Ann Gioscia
Carol Gesner
Pastor Wayne Gollenberg
Connie & Don Gugenheim
Wayne Hall
Owen Hanecak
Erica Haraldsen
Alexis Heintz
Bill Heintz
Brad Herzberg
David Hilton
Jim Hornfischer
Vicki Jene

Jenn Johnson & Family
Bob Jones
Ed Killingbeck
Lynn Killingbeck
Rick and Christa Kozik
Burke LaClair
Jeff Lajoie and family
Lori Ledone & family
Rebecca Little
Tommy Locascio
Judy Ludwig
Rita Lundeen
Ida Mallet
Mervin Mank
Cynthia Marine
Richard Marine
Bob & Lynn Milano
Barbara Miller
Ruth Mohlenhoff
Lonnie & Rose Moranino
Richard Mortlock
Carolyn Mosher
Denise Murphy
Doris Murphy
Michael Meyers
Joyce Nalette
Ron Nurnberg
Greg O'Brien
Tom O'Brien
Cindy O'Dell
Louis Pagano
Bruce and Kathy Panella
Gary Parker
Pastor Jim Pence
Wally Pence
Marge Raspiller
Gladys Reil
Pat Reiley
Pastor Sharon Riessinger
- Blezard
Grant Robinson
Mary Rolfe
Elfrieda Roller
Dave Roskopf
Chris Samele
Tom & Marianne
Sedgwick
Rosemary Schibi
Jay Shaw
Linda Shaw
Tricia Sherwin
Bob Sienko
Marge Skaret
Richard Stanhope
Jon Sterling

Mary Thurlough
Reid Underwood
Cathy Winzler
Jean Marie Witt
Anna Woike

Karen
Katherine
Helen
JO
Jaiden
Mike
Curran
Janice
Diane
Jen
Charlie
Michelle
Jessica
Donna L.
Rich S.
Dustin
Skylar
Andrea
Kayleigh
Linda H.
Tom S.
Diane, Kayla, and family
Bob
Shannon H.
Karen M.
Ora
Sharon
Mason
Louis F.
Katherine T.
Joyce-Ann
Maryann Z.
Diane
Jack
Max
Lisa
Erin and Family
Pam
Jack & Barbara
Lorraine
The Maxwell Family
The Loomis Family

Family and friends of
Luba Braatz

Our Nursing Home Members

Doug Little
Vinetta Nigels
Doris Houk
Dee Gammon
Richard Regner

Our Military Friends

Lord Jesus, Savior of the World and King of Peace, watch over our sons and daughters in the service of their Country. Protect them from the physical and moral dangers. Keep them close to you and help them live the commandments. Lord, Jesus give them courage to serve their country with honor and dignity. Be with them when they are in danger; strengthen them when they face hardship. Above all Lord, grant that when their service is finished that they may return to us, sound in mind, body and soul. Amen.

Pvt. Brennan Thompson
Tyler Quinn
Eric Beyus
Major Zachary Fulton
Brandan Holbrook
Jonathan Connell
Tom Gregg, Jr.
Brion Olivero
Eric Bremer
Peter Hutchinson
S/W Anderson James
Ernst USCG
PFC Dominic Boscarino

If you place a name on the Prayer List, it is your responsibility to let the office know either by Prayer of Concerns form in the Narthex, e-mail or a quick phone call, once per month if the name needs to remain on the list. Thank you.