



Sunday, December 15, 2024- Third Sunday in Advent

Processional Hymn **Rejoice! rejoice, believers** **(H 68)**

1 Rejoice! rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear! The evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The Bridegroom is arising, and soon he will draw nigh; up, watch with expectation! at the midnight comes the cry.

2 See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil; look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil. The marriage-feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand; rise up, ye heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand!

3 Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this darkened sphere! With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!

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

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

Lighting of the Advent Candle- Joy!

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us Pray

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.

A Reading from the Prophet Zephaniah **3:14-20**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you

with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

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

Isaiah 12:2-6

Canticle 9 Page 86, BCP

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

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.

A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

Surely it is God who saves me

(H 679 v1)

1 Surely it is God who saves me; trusting him, I shall not fear. For the Lord defends and shields me and his saving help is near. So rejoice as you draw water from salvation's living spring; in the day of your deliverance thank the Lord, his mercies sing.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 3:7-18

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon The Rev Peter Steinbrenner

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

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who need healing and comfort. And all who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

We commend to your mercy all who have died. Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you. **People: And also with you.**

**Celebrations of Life – Welcome visitors – Blessings, Birthdays, and Anniversaries
For a Birthday**

Watch over your child, O Lord, as his days increase; bless and guide him wherever he may be. Strengthen him when he stands; comfort him when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him up if he falls; and in his heart may your peace which passes understand abide all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For an Anniversary

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The Holy Communion
Gluten free communion is available.

Presentation of the Elements

Offertory Hymn

Will you come and follow me?

(WLP 757)

1 Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my Name be known? Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

2 Will you leave your self behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

3 Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the pris'ner free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen? And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

4 Will you love the "You" you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

5 Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show, thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me?

Presentation of Offering

Doxology

O friends, in gladness let us sing, supernal anthems echoing, Alleluia, alleluia! To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! alleluia!

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them to the Lord

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People: By your will they were created and have their being.

Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People: By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora! Mi corazon te sabe decir: santo eres Señor. Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you! My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, Lord. Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora! Mi corazon te sabe decir: santo eres Señor. (WLP 785)

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (S-155)

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Anthem Let Us Break Bread Together Arr. by Fred Brock

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

Recessional Hymn Soon and very soon (LEVAS 14)

1. Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King! Verse

2 No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King, No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King, No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!

3 No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King, No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King, No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King! Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

4 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, We are goin' to see the King! Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Dismissal:

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God

2024 Vestry

Sr. Warden: Mary Ellen Howey

Jr. Warden: Mannie Makhathini

Clerk: Heather Bowman

Treasurer: Ed McGarry

David Graf

Kristen Lavachek

David Lynch

Deborah Sullivan

Announcements

Advent Study: Please join us for the advent study: "People, Look East: Welcoming Christmas". This will be Sundays at 9 am in the Parish Hall on December 1, 8, 15, 22.

Lessons & Carols: Please join us this afternoon at 4 pm. Come and celebrate the joyous season of waiting and the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, with an inspiring evening of the spoken word, song, and dance. Together, we will reflect on the hope, peace, joy, and love that this season brings.

Christmas Services: December 24th-4:30 pm Christmas Eucharist Family Service; 10:40 pm Christmas Choir Concert; 11:00 pm Festive Christmas Choral Eucharist; December 25th- 9 am Christmas Day Eucharist

Epicenter Food Drive: This Christmas season we at Epiphany are thankful for the many people who donate so generously to our food pantry. Sadly, we have an uptick in clients who have no means of cooking their own food. Therefore, we ask for all kinds of non-perishable food that does not require cooking. Cans with pull-tops are especially appreciated. Let's make this a merry Christmas for all God's children!

Christmas Poinsettia: Please fill out PINK flower slip for Poinsettia (\$30) and attach check or cash and give to Betty-Jeanne or put in the offering plate.

Please send any announcements for the bulletin and newsletter at admin@nvepiphany.org

Our mission is to create and nurture disciples to share our journey to know and to love Jesus Christ

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