THE HOLY EUCHARIST
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2019

11:00 AM
Newcomers and visitors, the community of Saint Mark's welcomes you. We hope that you will feel at home in this place and in this liturgy. Ushers are available during the liturgy as well as greeters and clergy following, should you have any questions or concerns. Mothers are most welcome to breastfeed their infants during the service. Children of any age are always welcome at Saint Mark's liturgies. In addition, child care during services is available in the Child Care Center, located in the west end of the cathedral building. You may reach the Child Care Center through the southwest doors of the nave, or by taking the elevator to the 5th floor. Ushers will guide you.

As part of our effort to serve those who cannot attend worship, this service will be livestreamed on the internet. The 8 AM, 9 AM, 7 PM, and 9:30 PM services are not livestreamed. We are grateful for your presence and participation in this community.

Out of respect for the liturgy we are about to celebrate, please turn off all cell phones and audible devices. Please, no photography during the liturgy.

If you have brought an Advent Giving Tree gift for a child at Casa Latina, Mary's Place, or Lowell School; socks for Noel House residents; or sheets and blankets for Mary's Place, please bring them forward and place them in front of the altar before the service begins. They will be blessed at the Offertory.

The Reverend Canon Nancy Ross, Canon for Cathedral Relations, Presider
The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason, Dean and Rector of Saint Mark's Cathedral, Preacher

THE GATHERING

A brief organ voluntary offered a few minutes before the hour invites all into quiet prayer and preparation.

**PRELUDE**

Two settings of *Conditor alme siderum*  
[tune of Hymn #60, “Creator of the stars of night”]

Sam Batt Owens (1928–1998)  
*and* Gerald Near (b. 1942)

A bell bids all to rise as able.

**INTROIT**

*Creator of the stars of night*  
**WORDS:** *Conditor alme siderum*, Latin, 9th century  
**MUSIC:** plainsong, Mode 4

Creator of the stars of night,  
your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,  
we pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse  
should doom to death a universe,  
you came, O Savior, to set free  
your own in glorious liberty.

When this old world drew on toward night,  
you came; but not in splendor bright,  
not as a monarch, but the child  
of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great Name, O Jesus, now  
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;  
all things on earth with one accord,  
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

Come in your holy might, we pray,  
redeem us for eternal day;  
defend us while we dwell below  
from all assaults of our dread foe.
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Presider  Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the Cherubim,
Assembly  stir up your strength and come to help us.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider  Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Assembly  And Blessed be God’s reign, now and forever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider  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.
All  Amen.

TRISAGION  sung three times

Peter R. Hallock (1924–2014)

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider  The Lord be with you.
Assembly  And also with you.
Presider  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.
All  Amen.

Please be seated for the readings.
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

READING  

Isaiah 35:1–10

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.

Reader  
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Assembly  
Thanks be to God.
After a brief silence the Presider stands; all rise as able for the proclamation of the Gospel.

Mel Butler

The Choir sings the alleluias; all repeat them. The Choir sings the verse; all repeat the alleluias.

℣. See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.


The Choir introduces the antiphon, all repeat it. The Choir chants the verses, all repeating the antiphon as indicated.

Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; * for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: * the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.  ANTIPHON

He has mercy on those who fear him * in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, * he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  ANTIPHON

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, * and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, * and the rich he has sent away empty.  ANTIPHON

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, * for he has remembered his promise of mercy, The promise he made to our fathers, * to Abraham and his children for ever.  ANTIPHON

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.

Reader  Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Assembly  Thanks be to God.

After a brief silence the Presider stands; all rise as able for the proclamation of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
THE HOLY GOSPEL  Matthew 11:2–11

Deacon  The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Assembly  Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Deacon  The Gospel of our Savior.

Assembly  Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All rise as able.

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.
PRAYERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

After each petition:

Intercessor  We look to you in hope,

Assembly  Come, Lord Jesus, come.

The Presider concludes the prayers with a collect. All respond: Amen.

CONFESSION  

Deacon  Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

You are invited to stand or kneel for the confession.

Deacon  Most merciful God,

All  we confess that 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.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Presider pronounces God’s forgiveness of our sins. All respond: Amen.

THE PEACE

Presider  The peace of Christ be always with you.

Assembly  And also with you.

All greet one another in the name of the Lord.

BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS
This is the record of John
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him:
Who art thou?
And he confessèd and denièd not;
and said plainly: I am not the Christ.
And they askèd him:
What art thou then? Art thou Elias? [Elijah]
And he said, I am not.
Art thou the prophet?
And he answered, No.
Then said they unto him:
What art thou? That we may give an answer unto them that sent us.
What sayest thou of thyself?
And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness:
Make straight the way of the Lord.

All rise as able as the bread, wine, and money we offer to God are brought forward and presented at the altar table.
Presider  We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made
known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word
spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the
Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ you have delivered us from evil, and
made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into
truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he
had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat:
This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” After
Supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them,
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.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All  We remember Christ’s death,
We proclaim Christ’s resurrection,
We await Christ’s coming in glory;

Presider  And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; pre-
senting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious
God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of
the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of
Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy
Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and
bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, Mark, and all your saints, we
may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior,
the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor
and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

All  A - MEN.
THE LORD'S PRAYER  Sung by all, in four-part harmony as able

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844–1908),

Our Fa-ther in heav’n, hal-low’d be your Name, your king-dom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heav’n. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we for-give those
who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of trial, and de-li-ver us from e-vil.

For the king-dom, the pow’r, and the glo-ry are yours, now and for ev-er. A-men.
In silence, the Presider breaks the consecrated bread.

**FRACTION ANTHEM**  **A Simple Missa Brevis**  

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All seeking God are welcome at Christ’s Table.

The Assembly gathers around all sides of the altar platform, guided by the ushers. If you need communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know. Rice wafers for those who do not eat wheat are available at the Presider’s communion station at the front left.

- You are welcome to stand or kneel to receive communion.
- Hold out your hand to receive the bread and then eat. Guide the chalice of wine to your mouth and then drink.
- Or you may leave the bread in your hand for the chalice bearer to dip it in the wine and feed you.
- To receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest.

**ANTHEM**  **How lovely are the messengers**

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the Gospel of peace!

To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words, throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

**HYMN 615**  **“Thy kingdom come!”**  

TUNE: St. Flavian
All rise as able.

SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Presider  One body are we.
Assembly  For, though many, we share one bread and one cup.
Deacon   Go in peace, bearing holy gifts for holy people.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider  Eternal God,

All  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.

Blessing  The Presider asks God’s blessing on the Assembly. All respond:  Amen.

Hymn 59  Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding  * The Hymnal 1982 #59  TUNE: Merton

Dismissal

Deacon   Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Assembly  Thanks be to God.

Voluntary  Toccata on Veni Emmanuel
[tune of Hymn #56]  Adolphus Hailstork  (b. 1941)