



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2023

8:00 AM





LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT & WELCOME

Saint Mark's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of all the Coast Salish tribes.

NEW TO SAINT MARK'S?

Welcome to Saint Mark's Cathedral. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here! We invite you to complete a newcomer form, visit saintmarks.org/newcomers or connect with one of the clergy.

QUESTIONS?

Please ask one of the liturgical ministers. Restrooms are available in the narthex; all-gender restrooms are available in the northwest stairwell of the nave and on the 5th floor of Cathedral House, accessible by the elevator or southwest stairwell.

ABOUT THE LITURGY

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. We encounter God within worship and are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the hallmarks of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy literally is "the work of the people," and refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.

ABOUT THE ROSE CANDLE

The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday, or Rose Sunday. It marks roughly the halfway point of Advent, and "Gaudete" is Latin for "rejoice" intended as a boost to press on toward Christmas. In some churches, rose color vestments are worn to mark the occasion. Our tradition here is for the third candle lighted on the Advent Wreath to be rose (pink) rather than purple (violet) or Sarum blue.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE *Rorate Caeli*, “Drop down heavens”

Jeanne Demessieux

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

All stand, as able.

HYMN 59 *Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding* (sts. 1, 2, 5) ♦ *The Hymnal* 1982

Merton

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

The Book of Common Prayer (1979), p. 355

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Assembly **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider **A**LMIGHTY 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

The Book of Common Prayer (1979), p. 356

Presider Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Assembly **Have mercy upon us.**

Presider Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Assembly **Have mercy upon us.**

Presider Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Assembly **Have mercy upon us.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY *Third Sunday of Advent*

The Book of Common Prayer 1979, p. 212

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.

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 brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
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.
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.

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.
 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.
 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.

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

***Assembly* Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 126 ♦ In convertendo

The Book of Common Prayer (1979), p. 782

Please join the lector in reading the Psalm aloud, starting after the first asterisk.

WHEN the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
 then were we like those who dream.
 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
 and our tongue with shouts of joy.
 Then they said among the nations, *
 "The Lord has done great things for them."
 The Lord has done great things for us, *
 and we are glad indeed.
 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
 like the watercourses of the Negev.
 Those who sowed with tears *
 will reap with songs of joy.
 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
 will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. ♦

READING *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

REJOICE always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May 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. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

All stand, as able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL *John 1:6-8,19-28*

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Assembly **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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

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

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

HOMILY

The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason

All stand, as able.

THE NICENE CREED

The Book of Common Prayer 1979, p. 358

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

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 & ABSOLUTION

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

You are invited to stand or kneel for the confession.

Presider 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 the Lord be always with you.

Assembly And also with you.

All greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY

An offering of money is received. All worshipping in person are invited to place their offering in the plates as they are passed through through the rows.

For electronic giving options, visit saintmarks.org/give, or use the Venmo mobile app (@SaintMarksCathedralSeattle, or scan the code at right),

or visit this link on your mobile device: <https://venmo.com/saintmarkscathedralseattle>.

If Venmo asks you for a four-digit code, enter 2076.



All stand, as able.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer B*

The Book of Common Prayer (1979), p. 367

Presider The Lord be with you.

Assembly **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

Assembly **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, 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 Lord 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 he 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 his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Presider And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presider Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Assembly **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table.

If you need communion brought to your seat, please let any of the liturgical ministers know.

Rice wafers for those who do not eat wheat are available; simply ask for one at the time of communion.

- ♦ *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.*
- ♦ *Intinction (dipping the bread in the wine) is not available at this time.*
- ♦ *To receive a blessing instead of the bread or wine, simply cross your arms over your chest.*

All stand, as able.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

The Book of Common Prayer 1979, p. 365

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 65 *Prepare the way, O Zion (sts. 1 & 2) ♦ The Hymnal 1982* *Bereden väg för Herran*

DISMISSAL

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

VOLUNTARY *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* (Tune of Hymn 54, "Savior of the nations come")
Johann Pachelbel

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

PRESIDER & PREACHER

The Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason

ASSISTING LAY MINISTER

Emily Meeks

LECTOR & INTERCESSOR

Mary Dickinson

ORGANIST

John Stuntebeck

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