

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020



THE MISSION OF CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
IS TO BE A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY;
ACCEPTING AND INVITING ALL PERSONS TO SHARE IN WORSHIP,
WITNESS AND SERVICE; AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
IN THE WORLD.

Rector's welcome and announcements

Prelude

Pastorale

J. S. Bach

The Holy Eucharist, Rite Two

The Word of God

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

People: ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.***

The Celebrant then says the Collect for Purity

BCP, pg. 355

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.

People ***Amen.***

The Trisagion (*said three times*)

BCP, pg. 356

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

The Collect of the Day

BCP, pg. 212

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.***

The people may be seated.

A Reading from the Prophet 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.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

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

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the 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.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

The people stand.

The Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 1:6-8, 19-28
People ***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.

After the Gospel the Celebrant says

The Gospel of the Lord.
People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

The Sermon

David J. Malek

The Nicene Creed

BCP, pg. 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.*

The Prayers of the People for the Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

Leader: The Lord God has called us to proclaim his saving message through word and deed. Let us begin by the offering of our prayers, responding, “Come, Lord Jesus.”

O Emmanuel, give us the courage to admit our sins and shortcomings, the desire to turn to you in faith and repentance, and the grace to accept your gifts of forgiveness and new life; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Root of Jesse, remove all prejudice from our hearts, and help us to accept our unity with all humankind; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Key of David, unlock the imagination of your Church that we may bring good news to those who live in despair, liberty to persecuted Christians, and relief to children who are victims of abuse and abandonment; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Prince of Peace, awaken us to the fruits of concord, that humanity may turn from its destructive vengeance and choose the path that leads to justice and security for all people everywhere; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Desire of Nations, lift the vision of our leaders, not to politicize the present challenges, but to resourcefully lead your people to the blessings of your kingdom; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come and be present with all who are suffering in this time of pandemic; that those who are ill, and those who care for them, may be uplifted and strengthened by the power of your Holy Spirit; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Dayspring from on High, put to flight death’s dark shadow, and receive into the body of your resurrection those who have departed this life in your faith and fear; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Mary revealed the greatness of the Lord, and in our gladness we continue our prayers.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for the people and ministry of Grace Episcopal Church, Jefferson City; we pray for Bill, their Priest; Howard, their Assisting Priest; and Paula, their Deacon; we pray for Deon, our bishop; in our companion Diocese of Lui in South Sudan we pray for Fraser Cathedral, Lui, and Francis, their Dean.

We pray for those on our prayer list: : ***Karen, Judy, Joey, Sally, Jack, Don, Carl, Dan, Ron, Betty, Rick, Don, Ann, Russ, Carole, Jon, Beth, Avery, Lucy, Queen, Paris, John, Paul, Diane, Charlene, and Ashley.***

We give thanks for birthdays: Kerry Quinlisk, Tom Lee, and Nancy Rediger; and anniversaries: Sister Donna Ruth Hawk-Reinhard & Doug Reinhard.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Intercessions Year B: Keyed to the Themes of the Revised Common Lectionary © 2011 by GERALYN WOLF.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

BCP, pg. 360

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,
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 Celebrant concludes with an absolution.

The Celebrant says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen

The Peace

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

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

The Celebrant says an offertory sentence.

Offertory Hymn

Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding

Hymn # 59

Text: Latin, 6th c., tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861

Music: William Henry Monk

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord
People ***And of thine own have we given thee.***

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP, pg. 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant says.

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 God thanks and praise.***

The Celebrant proceeds

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.

Celebrant and People

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

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,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

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 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. **AMEN.**

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

BCP, pg. 364

Celebrant and People

***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

BCP, pg. 364

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Then the following is said

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People ***Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

Music for Contemplation

Thomas Lee

A Prayer of Thanksgiving *(said by all)*

Lord of the Feast, we thank you for gathering us as your people. We call to remembrance the many times we have been fed at your table and we lament our distance now. Be present Lord Jesus as you were present with your disciples, be known to us in the breaking of the bread, and may your Holy Spirit sustain us and all your Church until we can gather together again. We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

Postlude

Allegretto, from Suite in G Major

J. S. Bach

*Biblical Texts are from The New Revised Standard Version
Liturgical texts are from The Book of Common Prayer
Hymn selections are from The Hymnal 1982 and other approved sources.
Hymns/songs recorded and printed in the bulletin are either
composed by Thomas Lee or are in public domain.*