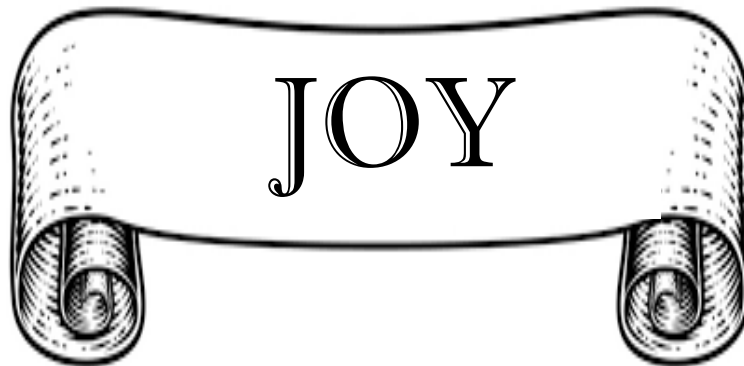


The Third Sunday  
of



ADVENT



## Third Candle - The Candle of Joy

### John the Baptist

**Leader:** Today we observe the Third Sunday of Advent. Last Sunday we lit the candles of Hope and Peace. We light these again, remembering that Jesus is the author of our hope and he will come again to fulfill all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace.

(A person lights the candles of Hope and Peace.) (Two blue candles)

This morning, we light the candle of Joy. God blessed Zechariah and Elisabeth with joy in their old age when they welcomed a son named John. John was the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophesy spoken 700 years earlier, a voice crying out in the wilderness calling people to repentance and right relationship with God. John was the herald who said of Jesus, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

As John spoke these words, there were disciples who heard them and followed Jesus. John's joy became their own. The flame the Holy Spirit had first kindled in a promise to Zechariah and Elisabeth would light the world forevermore. During Advent we too listen for and respond to John the Baptist's cry, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." (Matthew 3:3a)

(A person lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Joy). (Rose candle)

Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of these candles, we celebrate the hope and peace and joy we have in Jesus Christ.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Lord God, your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have this same passion and joy as we proclaim the good news of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome the One who was born in Bethlehem to fulfill your promise of our salvation. *Amen.*

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

*BCP – The Book of Common Prayer, H – The Hymnal 1982*

*S – Service Music in The Hymnal, A – Alleluia III Songbook*

### **Prelude**

### **Advent Wreath Prayer and Candle Lighting**

#### **Processional Hymn**

*Blest are the pure in heart*

H 656

Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God; the secret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's abode.

The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring, to dwell in lowliness with us, our pattern and our King;

Lord, we thy presence seek; may ours this blessing be; give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple fit for thee.

#### **The Opening Sentences**

BCP 355

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

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

#### **Celebrant**

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.*

#### **Song of Praise**

*Benedictus es, Domine*

S 236

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; we will praise you and highly exalt you forever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; we will praise you and highly exalt you forever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; in the high vaults of heaven, glory to you.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord.

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; we will highly exalt you. Glory to you.

*Amen*

## **The Collect**

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 forever. *Amen.*

## **The Lessons**

### **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 hand, 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.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*            *Thanks be to God.*

## Canticle 15 (Luke 1:46-55)

BCP 91

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,  
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.  
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.  
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 forever. Amen

## James 5:7-10

Be patient, 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.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*            *Thanks be to God.*

## Sequence Hymn

*Hark, the glad sound*

H 72 v 1-3

Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes promised long ago; let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release in Satan's bondage held; the gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure; and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humbled poor.

### **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 11:2-11**

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 receives their sight, the lame walk, the leper are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead is raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes not 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.”.

**Celebrant** The Gospel of the Lord.

*People Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

### **The Sermon**

The Rev. Linda Suzanne Borgen

**The Nicene Creed** *All say together*

BCP 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, Form IV**

BCP 388

*Deacon or Other leader*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.  
Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace;  
that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

### **Confession of Sin**

BCP 360

**Celebrant** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All say together*

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.

### **Absolution**

BCP 360

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**

BCP 360

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

*People* And also with you.

### **Announcements**



## The Holy Communion

### Offertory Sentence

BCP 376

*The Priest says* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,  
an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

*(Offerings may be mailed, given to the church office, or given securely online at  
[www.stthomasgreenville.org](http://www.stthomasgreenville.org))*

### Offertory Meditation

#### Hymn at the Presentation

*Doxology*

*H 380 v 3*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men

### The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

**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.*

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

**Celebrant** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

**Celebrant** 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.

*Then the Celebrant continues:*

We, give thanks to you, 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.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night before he dies 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;

*Then 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, 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[\_\_\_\_\_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 forever. *Amen.*

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

*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 364

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

**Celebrant** Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

**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.

## **The Ministration of Communion**

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and people*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of you 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.

## **Communion Hymns**

Choir and Congregation

### ***I am the Bread of Life***

A 69

I am the bread of Life; they who come to Me shall not hunger, they who believe in Me shall not thirst. No one can come to Me unless the Father draw them.

The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world, and they who eat of this bread, they shall live forever, they shall live forever.

Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of His blood, you shall not have life within you, you shall not have life within you.

I am the resurrection, I am the life. They who believe in Me, even if they die, they shall live forever.

Yes, Lord, we believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who has come into the world.

### ***Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus***

A 179

O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see? There's light for a look at the Savior, and life more abundant and free!

Through death into life everlasting He passed, and we follow Him there; Over us in sin no more hath dominion for more than conq'rors we are!

His Word shall not fail you. He promised; believe Him, and all will be well: Then go to a world that is dying, His perfect salvation to tell!

*Refrain*

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face; and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

***I Love to Tell the Story***

A 76

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His Love: I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true: It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat what seems each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet; I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own Holy Word.

I love to tell the story; for those who know it best seem when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His Love..

**Prayer for Lay Eucharistic Visitor**

**Celebrant** In the name of this congregation and our Lord Jesus Christ, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, so that those to whom you go share with us in this Holy Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

*People: For we who are many are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup.*

**Post-Communion Prayer**

BCP 366

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

### **The Blessing**

*Celebrant blesses the congregation saying*

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

### **Dismissal**

BCP 366

**Celebrant** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia*

### **Recessional Hymn**

*Come thou long expected Jesus*

H 66, v 1-3

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art: dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

### **Postlude**