



The Third Sunday of Advent  
December 14th, 2025  
10:45 am

Welcome

Opening Song

*Come Thou Fount*

Come Thou fount of ev'ry blessing  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace  
Streams of mercy never ceasing  
Call for songs of loudest praise  
Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above  
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it  
Mount of Thy redeeming love

Here I raise mine Ebenezer  
Hither by Thy help I'm come  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure  
Safely to arrive at home

Jesus sought me when a stranger  
Wand'ring from the fold of God  
He to rescue me from danger  
Interposed His precious blood

O to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be  
Let Thy grace Lord like a fetter  
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee  
Prone to wander Lord I feel it  
Prone to leave the God I love  
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it  
Seal it for Thy courts above

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

God our Father,  
you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age  
a son called John.  
He grew up strong in spirit,  
prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,  
and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.  
Help us, who have been baptized into Christ,  
to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,  
and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.  
Amen.

Song

*Candle Lighting*

As we light the third candle,  
give us strength  
as we wait for Your coming  
in glory with angels and saints.  
In place of suffering,  
give us grace and joy here.  
For the day of your coming  
is sure to be near.

## Opening Acclamation

*Clergy* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

## Collect of the Day

*Clergy* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Clergy* 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.*

## First Reading

*Isaiah 35:1-10*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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

### **Psalm 146:4-9**

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, \*  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;  
5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
who keeps his promise forever;  
6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
and food to those who hunger.  
7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.  
9 The Lord shall reign forever, \*  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

### **Second Reading**

*James 5:7-10*

A reading from the letter of James.

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

### **Gospel Song**

*Thy Word*

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path**

**When I feel afraid  
And I think I've lost my way  
Still You're there right beside me**

**Nothing will I fear  
As long as You are near  
Please be near me to the end**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path**

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 11:2-11*

*Clergy*        The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People*        **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."

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

## Sermon

The Rev. Pilar F. Padrón Parnell

## 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 People

*All are invited to stand, kneel, or sit as you are able to for the prayers.*

*Intercessor*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, responding with the words in bold.

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

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the community of St. James ' and all who minister to it, our clergy, vestry, and lay leaders. May God's call upon their lives make God's love known in our work together as the hands and feet of Jesus in this 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; praying for our leaders that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray for those who are living in fear of violence and for people and places we now name silently or aloud\_\_\_\_\_.

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. We pray especially for our young families, children, and those who are welcoming new babies. May we recall the face of God in their lives and remember our call in baptism to support their lives in Christ.

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. Remembering especially, \_\_\_\_\_.

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. Remembering especially, \_\_\_\_\_.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Holy Trinity, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Confession of Sin**

*Celebrant*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

*All*

**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**

*Clergy*

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**

*Clergy*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

### **Announcements**

#### **Anniversary & Birthday Blessings**

**May the strength of God pilot you, May the power of God preserve you, May the wisdom of God instruct you, May the hand of God protect you, May the way of God direct you, May the shield of God guard you against the snares of evil and the temptations of the world. May the Spirit of God bless you in the coming year.** *Adapted from Patrick, c.389 - c.46*

*An offering is collected to help support St. James' mission of sharing Christ's love in with the world. You can donate by scanning or tapping the QR code or visiting [www.stjamescan.org/support-stjames](http://www.stjamesscan.org/support-stjames).*



### **Offertory**

*Once and For All*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Priest* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Priest* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

*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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with St. James' and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

*Celebrant*

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

*All*

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.

### Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

A period of silence is kept.

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

### The Communion

*The sacrament is given to the people.*

### Music at Communion

*One Bread, One Body*

### The Postcommunion Prayer

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.

### Blessing

### Closing Song

*Open the Eyes of the Heart*

Open the eyes of my heart Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy holy holy

Open the eyes of my heart Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy holy holy

Holy holy holy  
Holy holy holy  
Holy holy holy  
I want to see You

Holy holy holy  
Holy holy holy  
Holy holy holy  
I want to see You

The Dismissal is given by the Clergy, and the People respond, 'Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!'

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