

The Holy Eucharist

December 11, 2022

Third Sunday in Advent / Year A, Rite II

St. Antony of Egypt Episcopal Church

Presider: The Rev. Craig Vocelka

Livestream Producer: Guy Fulton

Deacon: The Rev. Bill Thaete

Musician: Mark Westin

Welcome to St. Antony's. Our Eucharistic celebration is offered both in person and is livestreamed on Facebook. You will find our livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/saintantony/>. For those worshipping in person, we encourage the use of facemasks and respect for others in our efforts to have people remain as healthy as possible.

Our service includes both a prelude and a postlude offering. We ask that you use this time in quietness to prepare for our celebration of God's unconditional love for each of us and as an opportunity to give thanks as well as show our respect for our musicians.

We have been entrusted to be care takers of this beautiful piece of God's creation. We acknowledge that the Suquamish and S'Kllalam people are the traditional stewards of the land on which our buildings stand and we pay our respect to their people and heritage.

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Hymn

"O come, O come, Emmanuel"

Hymnal 56

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear

Refrain: Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

6. O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and by thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Romans 12:12a Be joyful in hope.

Salutation

The Presider says to the people

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

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. **Amen.**

Collect for the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

Transition Prayer for St. Antony's and the Diocese

Said by all

God of Love,

You are with us in every transition and change.

***As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety,
we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love.***

We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us.

We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment.

We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.

Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.

We ask this in your Holy Name. Amen

The First 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.

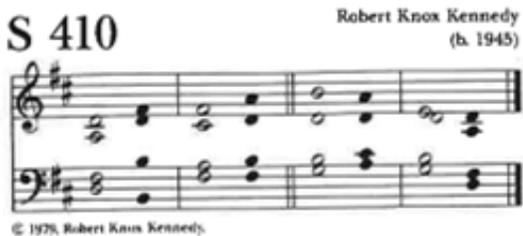
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15

The Song of Mary Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55



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.

He has mercy on those who/ fear him *
in every gene/ration.

He has shown the strength of his/ arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their con/ceit.

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 for/ ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy/ Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. A/men.

The Second Reading - Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn *"I hear a sound"*

1. I hear a sound coming from the mountain; I hear it louder each day.
I hear a sound coming from the mountain; and it says prepare ye the way.
Prepare ye the way, prepare ye the way, prepare ye the way of the Lord.
2. I see the king standing on the mountain; I see him Clearer each day.
I see the king standing on the mountain; and he say prepare ye the way.
Prepare ye the way, prepare ye the way, prepare ye the way of the Lord.

The Gospel Reading – Matthew 11:2-11

Deacon 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.”

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

Homily – The Rev. Craig Vocelka

The Nicene Creed (said together, standing as you are able.)

**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

Leader I ask your prayers for those in the Armed Forces of our Country.

O Almighty God, shelter the men and women of our armed forces under your mighty wings; steel their courage in times of peril; give them integrity and honor in all they do; grant perseverance and resilience to their families; and heal the wounded warriors. We remember those who are deployed, especially *Ben Newcomb and Travis Sanger*, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Ukraine and Russia

Dear God, we ask that you be with the people of war-ravaged Ukraine. Give them physical and spiritual strength to withstand the horrors of war; console them in their misery, distress and losses; sustain them in their hope for peace. We ask that you also be with their brothers and sisters in neighboring Russia. Please open their eyes and hearts to the reality of the war and give to all people in both countries the desire to know the Truth that will set them free, and the courage and strength to pursue that Truth. We thank you for all the citizens of the world who value and pursue peace, and we ask that those who made the ultimate sacrifice in this war will not have died in vain. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Prayers of the People from "Intercessions for the Christian People"

Deacon or other leader

Jesus said that the signs of God's dominion were to be seen in the healing of the sick, the raising of the dead to new life, and the preaching of good news to the poor. Let us pray that our lives may be the instruments of God's work in the world, saying: O God, most worthy of praise, hear our prayer.

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation. Grant that we who bear your image may be faithful stewards of your gift and administer its bounty with wisdom for the good of all your creatures. O God, most worthy of praise,
Hear our prayer.

We thank you that you have called us to be your people. Give us patience as we await your coming, and grant us wisdom to discern your will in our daily lives, that each of us may serve others for the building up of our common life. O God, most worthy of praise,
Hear our prayer.

We thank you for the community of faith throughout the world. Strengthen your church as it witnesses to your love. Guide us in the fulfillment of your mission, that all may be one. O God, most worthy of praise,
Hear our prayer.

We thank you for the privilege of ministering to others. We remember before you all who are sick or in need. We pray for those who have died. Grant us the grace to accept suffering with patience and to be strengthened by our common life in the body of Christ. O God, most worthy of praise,
Hear our prayer.

We thank you for your countless gifts. Above all, we thank you for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ, and for our unity in him through baptism. O God, most worthy of praise, **Hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

The Presider concludes

We offer our thanksgiving and prayers to you, the one God and the source of light and life, now and forever.
Amen.

Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Presider

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Absolution

The Presider stands and says

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

The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The clergy and people greet one another in the name of the Lord, maintaining a respectful distance.

Announcements

Birthdays and Anniversaries

***Birthday Prayer* - Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Presider may begin the Offertory with a sentence of scripture. The offering plates are placed on the altar as a sign of our self-offering to God and our promise to give faithfully to the church.

Offertory Hymn ***“On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry”***

Hymnal 76

1. On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry; announcing that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings; glad tidings of the King of kings!
2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let each heart prepare a home; where such a mighty guest may come.
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord; our refuge and our great reward.
Without thy grace we waste away; like flowers that wither and decay.
4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the fallen sinner stand.
Shine forth, and let thy light restore; earth’s own true loveliness once more.
5. All praise, eternal Son to thee; whose advent doth thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

The Doxology is sung

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures, here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;

And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus (*sung*)

Hymnal S-125

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

The Presider continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us. We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Presider and People

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

The Presider continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Antony, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Presider and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer (*spoken*)

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now say,

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.

Fraction Rite (*sung*)

Hymnal S-164

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:

Give us your peace, give us your peace.

We invite all present to participate in this feast, regardless of where you are on your spiritual journey. Our table is open to all, as this is God's gift to all.

We are serving the cup individually. After receiving the bread, the body of Christ, if you like, please take a cup from the tray and then the Eucharistic Minister will serve you the wine, the blood of Christ. Please leave your cup at the baptismal font so we can properly dispose of them.

If needed, we do have gluten free communion wafers available. Just ask as you approach the priest.

If you do not wish to receive the Eucharist but would like a blessing, please approach the priest with your hands crossed over your chest.

We ask that you remember to use the hand sanitizer as you come to receive the Holy Eucharist.

Those who are participating by livestream may say the following prayer.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

From A Prayer Book for the Armed Forces

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. And since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our heart. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Communion Hymn 1 “Heal me hands of Jesus”

WLP 773

1. Heal me, hands of Jesus, and search out all my pain:
Restore my hope, remove my fear; and bring me peace again.
2. Cleanse me, blood of Jesus, take bitterness away;
Let me forgive as one forgiven; and bring me peace today.
3. Know me, mind of Jesus, and show me all my sin;
Dispel the memories of guilt, and bring me peace within.
4. Fill me, joy of Jesus: anxiety shall cease;
And heaven’s serenity be mine, for Jesus brings me peace!

Communion Hymn 2 “I am the bread of life“

Hymnal 335

1. 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.

Refrain: And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up, and I will raise them up on the last day.

2. 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. *Refrain*
3. 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.
Refrain
4. I am the resurrection, I am the life.
They who believe in me, even if they die, they shall live for ever. *Refrain*
5. Yes, Lord we believe that you are the Christ,
the Son of God who has come into the world. *Refrain*

Postcommunion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn

“There’s a voice in the wilderness crying”

Hymnal 75

1. There’s a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!
2. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish, like grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away;
3. but the word of our God endureth, the arm of the Lord is strong;
he stands in the midst of nations, and he will right the wrong.
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, the lambs he’ll gently hold;
to pastures of peace he’ll lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Happy Birthday!

13th Gail Campbell-Ferguson

Happy Anniversary!

16th Stan & Moonyeen Marks

Altar Flowers are given today by Norma Tipton in remembrance of Marie Tipton.

Flowers arranged by Loretta McGinley

The Sanctuary Lamp is given today by the Altar Guild.

Coffee Hour is being hosted by Esther Osborne