A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



CHRISTCHURCH ANGLICAN

14 DECEMBER 2025

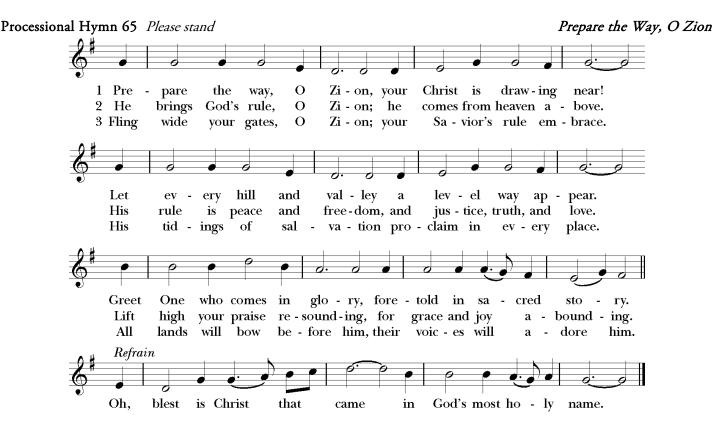
The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Verger

Today we light the third candle of Advent, John the Baptist's Candle, which reminds us of the call to prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus into the world.

Charles Anderson, Lucy, Katie, and Lister Hubbard will pray the following prayer and then light the John the Baptist Candle:

Let us pray: God our Father, you surprised Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age with a son called John, who prepared God's people for the coming of the Lord and baptized Jesus in the Jordan. Help us, who have been baptized into Christ, to grow strong in the power of your Spirit and serve you in all that we do. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who is coming into the world. *Amen.*



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The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Surely the Lord is coming soon.

People Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant and people

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.*

The Summary of the Law

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 22:37-40

The Kyrie

Celebrant Lord, have mercy upon us.

People Christ, have mercy upon us.

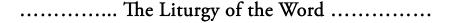
Celebrant Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you. People And with your spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient toward the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found a people acceptable in your sight; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*



The First Lesson Please be seated

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;² 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. ³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lector The Word of the Lord People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146

- Praise the LORD, O my soul; while I live I will praise the LORD.
- Indeed, as long as I have my being, I will sing praises unto my God.
- Put not your trust in princes, nor in any child of man, for there is no help in them.

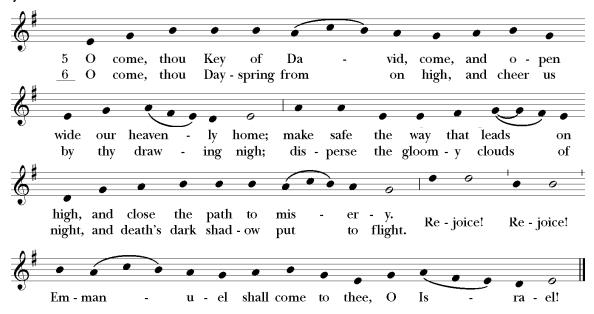
- For when one breathes his last, he shall return again to the earth, and in that day all his thoughts perish.
- Blessed is the one who has the God of Jacob for his help and whose hope is in the LORD his God,
- Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is therein; who keeps his promise for ever;
- Who does right to those who suffer wrong; and who feeds the hungry.
- The LORD sets prisoners free; the LORD gives sight to the blind.
- The LORD helps those who have fallen; the LORD loves the righteous.
- The LORD cares for the strangers in the land; he defends the fatherless and widow; but the way of the ungodly he makes crooked.
- The LORD shall be King for evermore, even your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Praise the LORD.

The Second Lesson James 5:7-20

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. 10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. 12 But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. 13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. 19 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, 20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Lector The Word of the Lord People Thanks be to God.





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The Gospel Please remain standing

Matthew 11:2-19



Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew. People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" 4 And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.' 11 Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, 14 and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. 15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear. 16 "But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, ¹⁷ "'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.' 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon Please be seated

The Reverend Cornelius Jackson

The Nicene Creed Please stand

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten 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, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 Please kneel

After each prayer, the People respond with the words "Hear our prayer."

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant and People

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker and judge of us all: We acknowledge and lament our many sins and offenses, which we have committed by thought, word, and deed against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your righteous anger against us. We are deeply sorry for these our transgressions; the burden of them is more than we can bear. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may evermore serve and please you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Absolution

The Comfortable Words

The Celebrant may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. *John 3:16*

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2*

The Peace Please stand

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with your spirit.

The ministers and people greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Parish Announcements Please be seated

...... The Holy Communion

At the Offertory Lo! he comes Helmsley

The Congregation is invited to sing during the offertory



 $Words: Charles \ Wesley \ (1707-1788) \ Music: \ \textit{Helmsley}, \ melody \ Augustine \ Arne \ (1710-1778); \ harm. \ Ralph \ Vaughan \ Williams \ (1872-1958), \ alt.$



The Great Thanksgiving - Anglican Standard Text Please stand

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd with your spirit.CelebrantLift up your hearts.

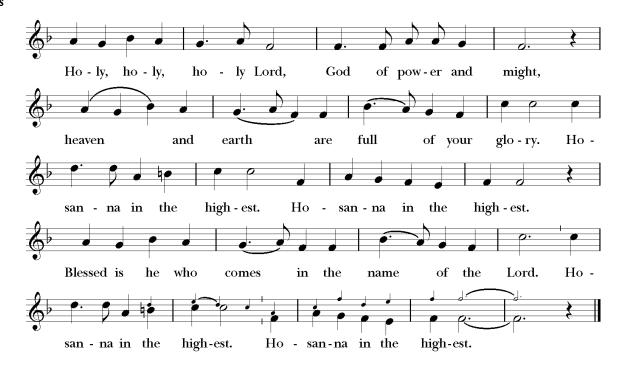
People We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, our duty and our joy, 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 glory 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:

Sanctus



Please kneel

All praise and glory is yours, O God our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy, you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption. He made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and he instituted, and in his Holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

So now, O merciful Father, in your great goodness, we ask you to bless and sanctify, with your Word and Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, that we, receiving them according to your Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

For on the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for 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 in remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

And here we offer and present to you, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice. We humbly pray that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, be filled with your grace and heavenly benediction, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, because of our many sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we ask you to accept this duty and service we owe, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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*.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this, your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord, whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen*.

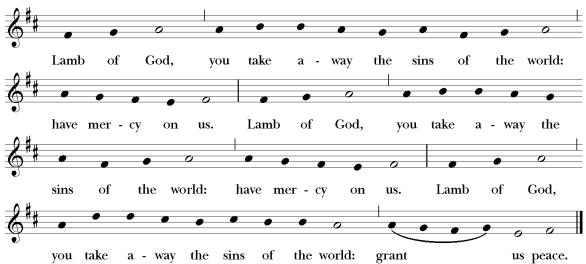
Invitation to Communion

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Please be seated







Communion Music

And now, O Father, mindful of the love that bought us, once for all, on Calvary's tree, and having with us him that pleads above, we here present, we here spread forth to thee, that only offering perfect in thine eyes, the one true, pure, immortal sacrifice.

Look Father, look on his anointed face, and only look on us as found in him; look not on our misusings of thy grace, our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim: for lo! between our sins and their reward, we set the passion of thy Son our Lord.

And then for those, our dearest and our best, by this prevailing presence we appeal;
O fold them closer to thy mercy's breast!
O do thine utmost for their soul's true weal!
From tainting mischief keep them pure and clear,

and crown thy gifts with strength to persevere.

And now, O Father

And so we come; O draw us to thy feet, most patient Savior, who canst love us still! And by this food, so awesome and so sweet, deliver us from every touch of ill: in thine own service make us glad and free, and grant us nevermore to part from thee.

Communion Music

Savior, again to thy dear Name we raise with one accord our parting hymn of praise; guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame, that in this house have called upon thy Name.

Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way; with thee began, with thee shall end the day: from harm and danger keep thy children free, for dark and light are both alike to thee.

Saviour, again, to thy dear name

Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life; peace to thy Church from error and from strife; peace to our land, the fruit of truth and love; peace in each heart, thy Spirit from above:

thy peace in life, the balm of every pain; thy peace in death, the hope to rise again; then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease, call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Communion Music

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords in human vesture, in the Body and the Blood he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

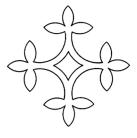
Post Communion Prayer Please kneel

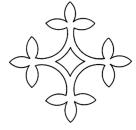
Celebrant and People

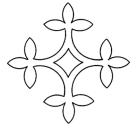
Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us, through this Sacrament, of your favor and goodness towards us: that we are true members of the mystical body of your Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of your everlasting kingdom. And we humbly ask you, heavenly Father, to assist us with your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all the good works that you have prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Blessing for the Third Sunday in Advent

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*









The Dismissal

Gospeler God is good,
People All the time!
Gospeler All the time,
People God is good!

Gospeler Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the coming of Christ!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Serving in the Liturgy

Celebrant The Reverend Canon Andrew M. Rowell **Gospeler** The Reverend Deacon Leah M. Slawson

Assisting The Reverend Cornelius Jackson

Director of Music The Reverend Dr. Jack N.T. Lindsay

Vergers Mose Stuart and Rick Oates

Lectors and Chalice Bearers Trey Starke, David Cobb, and Leigh Parker

Crucifer Claire Blanks
Server Molly Daniel

Gospel Torch Bearers Copeland Ming and Grashell Namale

Altar Guild Teri Klose, Kim Craven, Rita Worth, and Tricia Seay

Greeters David Rees, III, Kate Rees, Paula Rees, and David Rees, Jr.

Prayer Team Christy Holding, Hope Mardre, Teresa Reid, Kelly Oates,

and the Daughters of the Holy Cross

Ushers Price McLemore, Lister Hubbard, Mike Hartson, Bryan

Craven, Bobby Barnes



Holy Eucharist: 9:30 am Sunday Christian Education: 11 am Sundays, 6 pm on Wednesdays, and opportunities throughout the week

The Rev. Cn. Andrew M. Rowell - Rector
The Rev. Dr. Jack N.T. Lindsay - Associate Rector
The Rev. Dcn. Leah M. Slawson - Pastoral Associate for Christian Formation
The Rev. Alan L. Reid - Pastoral Associate for Prayer Ministries
The Rev. Dcn. Dollene W. McLemore - Pastoral Associate for Pastoral Care Ministries
The Rev. J. Michael Chitwood - Curate
The Rev. Cornelius Jackson - Director of Evangelism

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