

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 11am

Livestreamed worship available at [facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos).

St. Paul's on the Green | 60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851

## THE GATHERING RITE

**Gathering Music** *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

### The Opening Acclamation

*The people's responses are in bold.*

Our God, Emmanuel, now draws near;

**O come, let us adore.**

Come, O come Emmanuel, you are the way, the truth, and the life; you are the true vine and the bread of life. Come, living Savior, come to your world which waits for you. Praise to you, the one, holy, and living God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### Opening Hymn

6 O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us  
7 O come, De-sire of nations, bind in one the  
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight. Re - joyce! Re - joyce!  
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.

music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

## The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God most high and most near, you send glad tidings to the lowly, you hide not your face from the poor; those who dwell in darkness you call into the light. Take away our blindness, remove the hardness of our hearts, and form us into a humble people, that, at the advent of your Son, we may recognize him in our midst and find joy in his saving presence. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## The Lesson *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.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Response** *sung by the choir*

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice.  
Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is at hand.  
Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,  
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.  
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,  
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

words: Philippians 4:4-7  
music: Anonymous (16<sup>th</sup> century)

## **The Gospel** *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
**Glory to you, O 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.

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

## The Sermon *The Rev. Daniel Simons, Priest-in-charge*

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

## The Creed

*During the season of Advent we will be using a scripture-based credal statement from the Episcopal Peace Fellowship of South Africa.*

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—

**This is true: “I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly.”** —*John 1:20*

It is not true that we are victims of evil that seeks to rule the world—

**This is true: “Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, on whom authority will rest; who shall be called the Prince of peace.”** —*Isaiah 9:6*

It is not true that we must wait for prophets to speak before we can be peacemakers—

**This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young ones shall see visions and your elders shall have dreams.** —*Joel 2:28*

It is not true that our hopes for liberating justice, human dignity, and peace are not meant for this earth and for this history—

**This is true: “The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.”** —*John 4:23*

Merciful God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth, from despair to hope, and from hate to love. Lead us to your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

*Please offer your own petitions silently or aloud during the silences, or via a Facebook comment, which we will read aloud at the end of the prayers. The intercessor says*

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed:

O come, Emmanuel: **Hear us when we pray to you.**

Blessed are You, who joins all things together in the communion of Christ’s Body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this parish and throughout the world, that we may be a resurrection people, manifesting your steadfast love in our common life of praise and service.

O come, Emmanuel: **Hear us when we pray to you.**

O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world.

O come, Emmanuel: **Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Desire of every heart, the answer to every longing: You are the strong force that draws us into the mystery of love divine. Forgive us those things which distract and delay us, and lead us ever deeper into the Way, the Truth and the Life.

O come, Emmanuel: **Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Dayspring from on high, You unlock every door and make a way where there is no way. Set free all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or spirit. *The People add their own prayers.* Resurrect their hope, grant them peace and refreshment, and restore their joy.

O come, Emmanuel: **Hear us when we pray to you.**

Dear people of God, for what else, and for whom else, shall we pray?

*The online prayers of the people are offered.*

O come, Emmanuel: **Hear us when we pray to you.**

*The Celebrant concludes*

O God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us an Advent people, ready and alert to welcome and receive You in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare You room. We pray in the name of Jesus, who comes among us now. **Amen.**

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Please share the peace wherever you are: with a comment posted on Facebook, a bow to those nearby, or some other distanced gesture of peace.*

## The Announcements *available at [stpaulsnorwalk.org/sundaymorning](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/sundaymorning)*

### GIVING TO ST. PAUL'S

Now more than ever, the work and mission of St. Paul's depend on the generous support of its friends and members.

Please consider making an offering to St. Paul's by credit card. Visit [stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard), or use the QR code to the right.

For other means of giving, visit [stpaulsnorwalk.org/donate](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/donate).

**Thank you** for your generous support!



# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## The Offertory

*The Altar-Table is prepared with gifts of bread and wine for Communion. During this time, give thanks for all the ways God blesses you, and consider ways you can extend that blessing to others. Learn more ways to give on the previous page.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.**

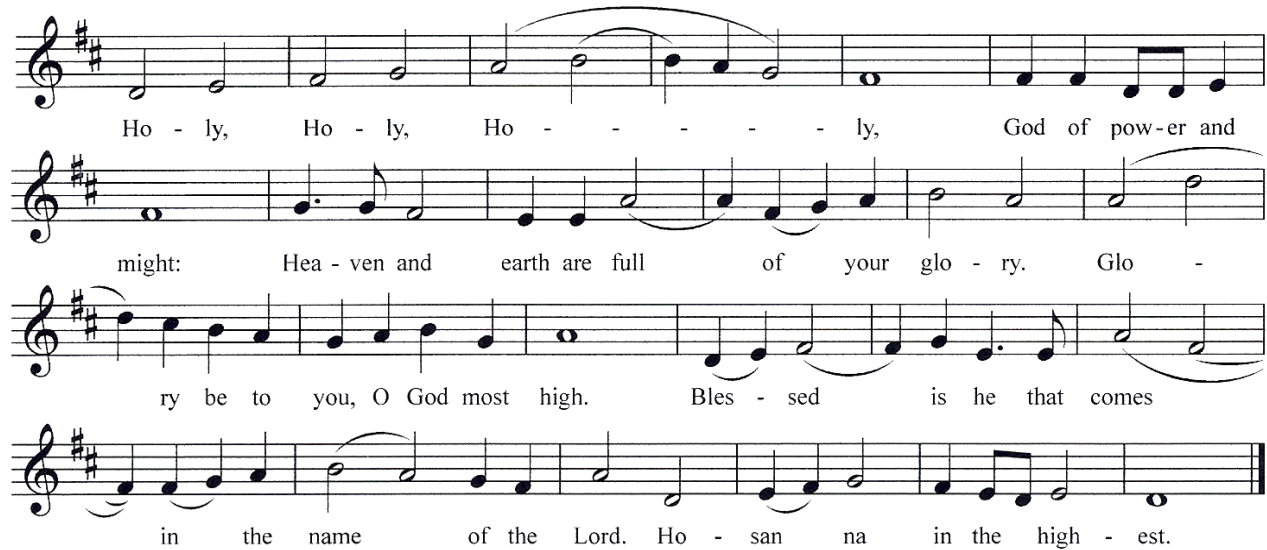
We praise you and we bless you, gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, fire, and water, and every living thing.

You made us creators in your image and taught us to walk in your love. But we rebelled against you, wandered far away, and used your gifts for evil.

And yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in your light and the fullness of your love.

So this day we join with all the earth and heavens in a chorus of praise that rings through eternity, as we proclaim:

## Sanctus and Benedictus



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - - - - ly, God of pow-er and  
might: Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo -  
ry be to you, O God most high. Bles - sed is he that comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san na in the high - est.

setting: *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880–1968)

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All glory be to you, holy and living God. You looked with favor on 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 into the heart of God, but we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

When the time came to complete the offering of his life, Jesus was eating supper with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, saying: "Take and eat; this is my Body, offered to heal you and the whole world. Whenever you eat it, do this to remember me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, offered it to his friends and said, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, a promise of eternal love poured out for you and for all creation. Whenever you drink it, do this to remember me.

Now gathered at your table, remembering that we are one with you and all creation, we offer to you from your own hand these gifts of bread and wine, and our own bodies as a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts, that they, and we, may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Fill us with your breath, O God, opening our eyes and renewing us in your love. Send your Spirit over the whole earth, making everything a new creation.

And in the fullness of time bring us, with all your children from every people and tribe and faith and language and nation to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we give glory to you, O God, now and forever. **Amen.**

# The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant*  
As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*Celebrant and People*  
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.  
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.  
Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.  
For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,  
now and for ev - er. A - men.

setting: *Ambrosian Chant*, adapt. Mason Martens  
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# The Communion

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus  
in the breaking of the bread.

—Luke 24:35



## Hymn at the Communion



The des - ert shall re - joice and blos - som as a rose: 1. It shall  
 2. For the  
 3. For the  
 4. For the



blos - som a - bun - dant - ly and re - joice with praise and sing - ing.  
 ears of the deaf shall hear And the blind, their eyes be o - pened.  
 tongue of the mute shall sing and the lame will dance with glad - ness.  
 ground will be - come a pool and the dry land springs of wa - ter.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>5. The desert shall rejoice<br/>         and blossom as a rose:<br/>         as the ransomed return to God<br/>         and come singing back to Zion.</p> | <p>6. The desert shall rejoice<br/>         and blossom as a rose:<br/>         unto Zion we come with joy,<br/>         for our God has come to save us.</p> |
|---|---|

words: Gracia Grindal (b. 1943)  
 music: *Sterling*, Joy F Patterson (b. 1931)  
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*After a period of silent reflection the people pray the following*

**God of love and grace, of justice and peace,  
we give you thanks that in the Sacrament of the altar  
you assure us of your presence within us  
and within the body of Christ,  
the faithful throughout all generations;  
grant that we who are nourished anew by these holy mysteries  
may be moved by your indwelling Spirit  
ever more fully to embody your holy and life-giving presence,  
reshaping in your likeness the world around us,  
until we are gathered at last  
into the fullness of your glorious and eternal presence;  
through Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.**

*—Bennet Brockman, alt.*

## THE SENDING RITE

### The Blessing and Dismissal

God is coming among us:  
in our past forgiving us,  
in our present loving us,  
and in our future, meeting us with everlasting grace.

And may the blessing of the deep mystery we name God –  
Source of hope,  
Word of life,  
and ever-present Spirit of truth  
be with you this day and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve Christ in all places and all people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** *Lob sei dem allmächtigen Gott* by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

## THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

[Click here](#) to join in small group conversation and catching up on Zoom!

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