The Holy Eucharist
The Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018
9:00 AM
Newcomers and visitors, the community of Saint Mark’s welcomes you. We hope that you will feel at home in this place and in this liturgy. Ushers are available during the liturgy as well as greeters and clergy following, should you have any questions or concerns. Mothers are most welcome to breastfeed their infants during the service. Children of any age are always welcome at Saint Mark’s liturgies. In addition, child care during services is available in the Child Care Center, located in the west end of the cathedral building. You may reach the Child Care Center through the southwest doors of the nave, or by taking the elevator to the 5th floor. Ushers will guide you.

During the season of Advent, the 9 a.m. Sunday Eucharist will be employing liturgical texts adapted from Prayers for an Inclusive Church, a work published in 2008 by Dr. Steven Shakespeare, Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at Liverpool Hope University in the U.K. In this work, Dr. Shakespeare has written a complete sequence of idiosyncratic and poetic collects which respond to the appointed readings for the entire three-year lectionary cycle. The book also contains Eucharistic prayers, confessions, prayers after Communion, and other liturgical texts intended for the Anglican liturgy. His goal, according to the book’s introduction, was to “revitalize the art of formal prayer,” by “bringing the experiences of exclusion and liberation into dialogue with the [Lectionary’s] scriptural texts, always ready to be surprised by the power of both to reveal new dimensions of salvation.” To this end, Shakespeare frequently employs unfamiliar images and concepts, seeking to “jar us out of preconceived and limiting images” of the Divine. Some of his most unsettling images, however, are those that are drawn most directly from the Biblical texts. “Prayer should not be alienating,” he says, “nor should it be too comfortable.”

Out of respect for the liturgy we are about to celebrate, please turn off all cell phones and audible devices. Please, no photography during the liturgy.

The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason, Dean and Rector of Saint Mark’s Cathedral, Presider & Preacher
THE GATHERING

A brief organ voluntary offered a few minutes before the hour bids all to keep silence for prayer and preparation.

**PRELUDE**
Meditation on Psalm 42
[tune of Hymn #67: “Comfort, comfort ye my people”]

**PROCEDED**
Please stand when the bells begin ringing.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*Presider* Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the Cherubim;
*Assembly* stir up your strength and come to help us.

**OPENING ACCLAMATION**

*Presider* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
*Assembly* Glory to God for ever and ever.

**TRISAGION**
Sung by all, three times.

Alexander Arkhangelsky (1846–1924)

God, holy God, holy and mighty, holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.

*COLLECT OF THE DAY*  
*Presider* God be with you.  
*Assembly* And also with you.  
*Presider* Let us pray.

God of flood and fire,  
calling us to turn from greed:  
may the gift of your Spirit come to us,  
burning with life and an unquenchable hope;  
through Jesus Christ,  
the one who is to come.

*All* Amen.
**The Liturgy of the Word**

**Reading**  
*Zephaniah 3:14–20*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.  
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.

*Reader*  
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*Assembly*  
Thanks be to God.
CANTICLE

The First Song of Isaiah [Isaiah 12:2–6]

Sung by all. Please remain seated.

1. Surely it is God who saves me; trusting him, I shall not fear.
2. Make his deeds known to the peoples; tell out his exalted Name.

For the Lord defends and shields me and his saving help is near.
Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his might proclaim.

So rejoice as you draw water from salvation’s living spring;
Zion, lift your voice in singing; for with you has come to dwell,
in the day of your deliverance thank the Lord, his mercies sing;
in your very midst, the great and Holy One of Israel.


READING

Philippians 4:4–7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader  Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
Assembly  Thanks be to God.

After a brief silence the Presider stands; all rise as able for the proclamation of the Gospel.

GOSPEL PROCESSION

Children are invited to join the Gospel Procession, and gather around as the Gospel is proclaimed.
Children in preschool through second grade are then invited to Children’s Chapel in Thomsen Chapel.
They will return at the Peace. Parents are welcome to join their children.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sung by all three times.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

music from the Taizé community
John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

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, 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.
PRAYERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

After each petition:

Intercessor We look to you in hope,
Assembly Come, Lord Jesus, come.

The Presider concludes the prayers with a collect. All respond: Amen.

CONFESSION

Deacon Let us confess our brokenness to God.
You are invited to stand or kneel for the confession.
Deacon Gracious God,
All We prefer to hide in the shadows of fear;
You beckon us into the light of your love.
Silence
Deacon Lord, have mercy.
Assembly Lord, have mercy.
Deacon Patient God,
All We turn our backs on the needs of our common world;
You promise mercy and healing for the whole earth.
Silence
Deacon Christ, have mercy.
Assembly Christ, have mercy.
Deacon Loving God,
All We worship elusive idols of prestige and power;
You come near in the vulnerable Word made flesh.
Silence
Deacon Lord, have mercy.
Assembly Lord, have mercy.

The Presider pronounces God’s forgiveness of our sins. All respond: Amen.

THE PEACE

Presider Christ’s judgment is not vengeance: an eye for an eye;
his peace is not a veil for injustice: instead he holds the suffering with us;
he comes to break the spear, to silence the guns and still our warring souls.
May the peace of Christ rule our world and heal our hearts.
The peace of Christ be with you always.
Assembly And also with you.
All greet one another in the name of Christ.

BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS
THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY
An offering of money is received. Everyone worshipping this morning is invited to make an offering as an expression of gratitude for God’s generosity. Many support Saint Mark’s through pledged offerings made by credit card or via mail. Together our gifts make possible this community of welcome, reconciliation and service.

ANTHEM  

_Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding_

1. Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding;  
   “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;  
   “Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
   O ye children of the day!”

2. Wakened by the solemn warning,  
   Let the earthbound soul arise;  
   Christ, her sun, all ill dispelling,  
   Shines upon the morning skies.

3. Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,  
   Comes with pardon down from heaven;  
   Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
   One and all to be forgiven;

4. That when next he comes with glory  
   And the world is wrapped in fear,  
   With his mercy he may shield us,  
   And with words of love draw near.

5. Christ, to thee be endless glory,  
   From all souls on earth be praise,  
   Who from heaven wilt come to save us,  
   And redeem from sinful ways.

6. Honour, glory, might, and blessing  
   To the Father and the Son,  
   With the everlasting Spirit,  
   While eternal ages run.

Amen.

WORDS: Vox clara ecce intonat, Latin, 6th century
trans. Edward Caswall [stanza 5 added by the composer]
MUSIC: Eric H. Thiman (1900–1975)

The bread, wine and money we offer to God are brought forward and presented at the altar table. When the Presider stands, all rise as able.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

_Presider_ The Lord be with you.
_Assembly_ And also with you.
_Presider_ Lift up your hearts.
_Assembly_ We lift them to God.
_Presider_ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
_Assembly_ It is right to give God thanks and praise.
_Presider_ Eternal God, Mystery of winter skies, we thank you in the darkening hour for opening our eyes to your starlit beauty; for parting the wide heavens with your persistent light; for offering your Word to take our mortal flesh.
In the fullness of time, a child was promised by those who shared your dream of peace; John the Baptist cleared his way with words of desert fire; Mary and Joseph welcomed his coming with tenderness and faith; we trust that he draws near again to show us our true selves.

Now we take up the song of hope, with angels and saints and all the company of heaven, that the world might awaken to his coming and be touched by his glory:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS  New Plainsong  Daivd Hurd (b. 1950)

Presider  We ask that your Holy Spirit fall upon us and upon these gifts, that these fragile, earthly things may be to us the body and blood of our Lord and brother, Jesus Christ.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom. He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’

In the same way after supper, he took the cup of wine, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’

As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in touch and taste beyond all that words can hold. And so we proclaim the great mystery of faith, saying:

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

Presider  With these gifts we are filled with the life-giving presence of Christ; we proclaim him as creation’s host, transforming poverty into plenty with his generous love.

Inspire us with the hope that one day death and greed will be no more, and people will come from east and west, north and south to share a feast of abundance.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Savior, by whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be yours, Mother of blessings, for ever and ever.

All  AMEN.
McNeil Robinson II (b. 1943)

In silence, the Presider breaks the consecrated bread.

FRACTION ANTHEM  New Plainsong  Hurd

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: grant____ us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Presider  The gifts of God for the people of God.
All seeking God are welcome at Christ’s Table.
Communion is distributed at standing stations at the head of each aisle.
If you need communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.
Rice wafers for those who do not eat wheat are available at the Presider’s communion station at the center aisle.

- Hold out your hand to receive the bread and then eat. Guide the chalice of wine to your mouth and then drink.
- Or you may leave the bread in your hand for the chalice bearer to dip in the wine and feed you.
- To receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY  Chorale Prelude on Ich ruf zu dir, bwv 639  J.S. Bach (1685–1750)
[tune of Hymn #634: “I call on thee, Lord Jesus Christ”] offered by Ben Gillig, a member of the Schola

HYMN 68  Rejoice! rejoice, believers  The Hymnal 1982 #68  TUNE: Llangloffan
All rise as able.

SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Presider One body are we.
Assembly For, though many, we share one bread and one cup.
Deacon Go in peace, bearing holy gifts for holy people.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider Eternal God,
All we thank you that in Christ
you have fed us with the bread of life:
may we who have tasted your bounteous gifts
proclaim this good news to the ends of the earth,
that all people might come to know
that you dwell in our midst,
eager to greet your creation
with abounding love and mercy;
we ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

BLESSING

Presider May the God who brings heaven close to earth give you true wisdom,
a fierce longing,
and a pregnant hope,
that your hearts may be prepared to be born again in love,
and the mercy and grace of God be upon you
this day and for evermore.
Assembly Amen.

HYMN 67 Comfort, comfort ye my people • The Hymnal 1982 #67 TUNE: Genevan 42

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Assembly Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY Choral Prelude on Lob sei dem almächtigen Gott, bwv 602 J.S. Bach (1685–1750)
[based on a variant of of Hymn #60: “Creator of the stars of night”]

PRESIDER & PREACHER
The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason

DEACON
The Reverend Earl Grout

ASSISTING LAY MINISTER
Judy Andrews

Eucharistic Ministers
Cyndi Ademujohn
The Reverend Cristi Chapman
The Reverend Canon Jennifer King Daugherty
Re Knack, Rachel McNary

OBLATION BEARERS
The Baker family

ALTAR GUILD
Barbara Zito, Sue Tait

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING
Carol & Jim Green

ACOLYTES
Katie Mattison
Erika Sutkus
Heather Sutkus

LECTORS
Rick Hodsdon
Pamela Bradburn

INTERCESSOR
Susan McClung

CHILDREN’S CHAPEL LEADER
Susan McClung

USHERS
Liz Shea
Carolina Reid

GREETER
Jeff Helgesen

MUSICIANS
The Schola of Saint Mark’s Cathedral Choir School,
Rebekah Gilmore, Director
Saint Mark’s Singers
John Stuntebeck, Ben Gillig,
& Michael Kleinschmidt, Organists

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