

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 15, 2019

8:00 A.M. Rite I: beginning on page 323 (red book)
10:30 A.M. Rite II: beginning on page 355 (red book)

Opening Hymn	<i>Prepare thy way O Zion</i>	65 (blue book)
Opening Acclamation		355 (red book)
Collect for Purity		
Song of Praise		56 v. 5-6 (blue book)
Collect of the Day		160/212 (red book)
I reading—Isaiah 35:1-10		
Psalm 146:4-9		803 (red book)
II reading—James 5:7-10		
Gradual Hymn	<i>Comfort, comfort ye my people</i>	67 (blue book)
Gospel—Matthew 11:2-11		
Homily	The Rev. Catherine Carpenter	
Nicene Creed		326/358 (red book)
Prayers of the People	8:00 a.m. Form I	328 (red book)
	10:30 a.m. (<i>Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy . People: Hear our prayer.</i>)	
At end of prayer-(<i>Intercessor: Joining our voices...to the living God through Christ.</i>)		
	(People: To you, O Lord our God.)	
The Peace		
Offertory		
Presentation of Alms		<i>Instrumental</i>
The Great Thanksgiving	Prayer II, 8:00 a.m.	340 (red book)
	Prayer B, 10:30 a.m.	367 (red book)
Sanctus	<i>Holy, holy, holy, Lord</i>	S 130 (front blue book)
At the Breaking of the Bread		S 164 (front blue book)

All baptized persons regardless of denomination, including children, are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you would like to receive communion but cannot approach the altar rail, please notify an usher and it will be brought to you. Gluten-free wafers are available, simply tell the celebrant "gluten-free".

Communion *(During the Sundays of Advent we will receive in silence)*

When Eucharistic Visitors are to visit those unable to attend, they are sent at this time.

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People: **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

Post Communion Prayer 339/366 (red book)

Closing *The King shall come when morning dawns* 73 (blue book)

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ISAIAH 11:1-10

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.

PSALM 146:4-9

803 (red book)

JAMES 5:7-10

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.

MATTHEW 11:2-11

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.”



GRACE'S MISSION STATEMENT

*To be a visible sign of Christ's love, seeking
and serving Christ in all persons.*

WELCOME TO GRACE

We welcome all newcomers and visitors and we ask that you complete a card from pews or welcome table or sign our newcomer book (located in the front of the building). After the service please join us in the Welcome Area for coffee and hospitality. We are glad that you are here with us today.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES for the hearing impaired are available from the ushers.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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