



THE WORD OF GOD

Entrance Rite

Voluntary

J.S. Bach, arr. Walter Hilgers

Prelude XXII, from The Well-Tempered Clavier, BWV 867

Rhonda Kovar, French horn

Entrance Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Hymnal 1982 – 76

Winchester New

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, 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.

Hymn permission used by Rite Song a one-time use reprint license for congregational use.

Opening Acclamation

BCP p. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

BCP p. 355

All: **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.**

Trisagion

See pew card.

The following is sung three times, all standing

**Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy on us.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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.**

The Lessons

The people sit.

The First Reading: Isaiah 36:1-10

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary

Remain seated. The Choir will introduce the Antiphon first. The congregation then joins in singing the Antiphon each time.

Antiphon

The image shows a musical score for the antiphon. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a range of approximately an octave. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with hyphens under 'claims' and 'ness' to indicate that the notes are held across the bar lines. The lyrics are: 'My soul pro - claims the great - ness of the Lord.'

From *A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition* © 2007 by Carl P. Daw, Jr. and Kevin R. Hackett. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- 1 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.
- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

Antiphon

- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

- 4 He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit. **Antiphon**
- 5 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty. **Antiphon**
- 7 He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever. **Antiphon**

The Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Remain seated.

A Reading from the letter of James.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

All stand.

Hymnal 1982 – 66

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Stuttgart

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Hymn permission used by Rite Song a one-time use reprint license for congregational use.

The Gospel

All remain standing.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Vern Cahoon

The Nicene Creed

All stand.

**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.**

The Prayers of the People

All remain standing.

From Praying the Scriptures, by Jeremiah D. Williamson

Intercessor: Sisters and brothers, strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Let us seek the Lord, praying, “Let us see your glory, O Lord; *come to us and save us!*”

Lord, save your Church from weakness of heart. Give us strength to prepare this world for the coming of your Christ and give us patience when it seems Christ’s kingdom does not come quickly enough. *Silence.*

Let us see your glory, O Lord;

People: **Come to us and save us!**

Intercessor: Lord, save this nation from disordered priorities and misplaced hope. May our values mirror your values. May we be a nation that

offers justice to the oppressed, food to the hungry and care to the stranger. *Silence.*

Let us see your glory, O Lord;

People: **Come to us and save us!**

Intercessor: Lord, save your creation from human misuse. Bless us to play a part in the redemption you have planned for all of creation. *Silence.*

Let us see your glory, O Lord;

People: **Come to us and save us!**

Intercessor: Lord, save this city from hopelessness. Give us a vision and a future. Raise up prophets who will speak hope and encouragement to the people of our region. *Silence.*

Let us see your glory, O Lord;

People: **Come to us and save us!**

Intercessor: Lord, save the sick and the sorrowful in the midst of their affliction. May they experience the healing work of their Messiah. Make happy all those who have you for their help. *The people are invited to add their petitions and thanksgivings, followed by silence.*

Let us see your glory, O Lord;

People: **Come to us and save us!**

Intercessor: Lord, bless all members of your heavenly kingdom. May they obtain eternal joy and gladness in your presence – where sorrow and sighing are no more. *Silence.*

Let us see your glory, O Lord;

People: **Come to us and save us!**

Silence. Then, the Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Confession of Sin

BCP p. 359

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence may be kept.*

Minister and People

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

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

The Peace

BCP p. 360

All stand

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

People: **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

A note about receiving Holy Communion: In the Episcopal Church, we understand that Christ is “really present” in the bread and wine provided from God’s table. All who claim Christ as Lord are always welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion in this church. Children are welcome to receive communion at the discretion of their parents.

Come forward at the direction of the ushers. Receive the consecrated wafer in the palm of your outstretched hand from the first person who comes to you. To receive a gluten-free wafer, please cross your hands palms down. Wine may be received by lightly dipping the bread into the small cup in the center of the plate/paten from which you received the bread. Alternatively, you may choose to drink from the larger cup/chalice which the next person will offer you. Receive the consecrated wine by guiding the offered cup to your lips and sipping. Those who distribute the wine will wipe the chalice with a food safe sanitizer and turn it for the next person after each person receives. You may also decide to take the wafer only. If you choose not to receive communion, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing as your presence is a blessing to all of us. Once you have been blessed or received communion, you may offer a short prayer and then return to your seat.

If physical limitations make it difficult to come forward, please let an usher know that we may have the honor of bringing communion to you.

Offertory Sentence

BCP p. 376

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalms 50:14*

Offertory Anthem

Benedetto Marcello/arr. Peter Reichert

Mvt I: Adagio, from *Sonata in A-flat Major*, Op. 2/VI

Rhonda Kovar, French horn

Presentation of Gifts

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda

BCP p. 367

The People remain standing.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, 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 triumph 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

Russian Orthodox

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: 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 for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Memorial Acclamation

Russian Orthodox

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

The Great Amen

Russian Orthodox

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 363

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

People and Celebrant

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

Fraction Anthem

Angus Dei

Russian Orthodox

Jesus, Lamb of God, **have mercy on us.**

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

Jesus, redeemer of the world, **give us your peace.**

Invitation

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

A prayer for those joining online to be unified in Communion with Christ.

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

Communion Hymns

Adoro te devote

arr. Charles Callahan

Mvt I: Fuga, from *Concerto per la Chiesa*

Georg Philip Telemann

Rhonda Kovar, French horn

Lay Eucharistic Minister Prayer *(as needed)*

Celebrant: In order that all may receive Holy Eucharist, _____ will take the Eucharist to _____ today.

All: In the name of this congregation, we 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. We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

The Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p. 365

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

BCP p. 366

Announcements

Closing Hymn

Hymnal 1982 – 65

Prepare the way, O Zion

Bereden väg för Herran

1 Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

Refrain: Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy Name.

2 He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

Refrain

3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.

His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.

Refrain

Hymn permission used by Rite Song a one-time use reprint license for congregational use.

Dismissal

BCP p. 366

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary

Georg Philip Telemann

Mvt IV: Allegro, from *Concerto per la Chiesa*

Rhonda Kovar, French horn

Scripture quotations are from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Announcements | Scan the QR code with your camera phone to view All Saints' *Weekly Word* newsletter.



Giving | There are a variety of ways to give at All Saints'. For details, go to www.allsaintsconcord.org/online-giving.



You are Invited! All are Welcome!

December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent

Family Advent Lesson: Joy at 10 AM

December 11 – Advent Lessons and Carols – 5 PM

December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Family Advent Lesson at 10 AM

December 21 – Service of Light – 7 PM

Christine Van Arsdale, harpist

December 23 – Hanging of the Greens – 10 AM

December 24 – Christmas Eve Family Service – 4 PM

December 24 – Nativity of our Lord – 9 PM

December 25 – Christmas Day

Christmas Lessons & Carols – Holy Eucharist – 10 AM

Vasily Gorkovoy, violin

January 1 – New Year's Day

First Sunday after Christmas – Holy Eucharist – 10 AM

January 6 – Epiphany – 6 PM

Chili Cook Off, Service of Epiphany, Burning of the Greens

January 8 – First Sunday after the Epiphany – 9 & 11:10 AM

Note on Today's Readings | *The Third Sunday in Advent – Year A*

Welcome to All Saints' Episcopal Church. The Third Sunday of Advent again has as its central theme the ministry of John the Baptist. Jesus said of him, "Among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist...." In today's Gospel, John, who has been imprisoned by Herod Antipas, is facing death and wishes to know before he dies that he was correct in identifying Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus' reply is to quote from the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah, demonstrating that he is indeed fulfilling the Messiah's ministry as Isaiah had foretold.

The Old Testament reading is the passage Jesus quotes in the Gospel reading. The sign of the Messiah is a new order of existence – God's Kingdom – in which health and salvation spring forth. The second reading is a call to patient waiting for the Lord to appear to inaugurate the Kingdom of God.

The distinction between John and even the least in the Kingdom – ourselves – who are even greater, is that our birth is more than natural – it is the new birth by water and the spirit in Holy Baptism, which has made us members of the Body of Christ. We are commissioned for ministry in Baptism; a ministry like that of Jesus. In Holy Eucharist, we affirm our commitment to that ministry to all people, which is the ongoing sign of Christ in the world.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*. Copyright © 2009 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.



525 Lake Concord Road NE, Concord, NC 28025

www.allsaintsconcord.org | 704-782-2024 | All Saints' WiFi password: JesusLovesYou