



St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



God thinks you are fabulous,
and so do we.

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023+Holy Eucharist+ Rite II
Gaudete (Rejoicing) Sunday

Straight and gay, rich and poor, and every color and age, St John's is a place of Radical Kindness, warm and open Christ-Followers who celebrate God's grace and love and cherish one another. We are proud and grateful to serve as a "neighborhood church" for the tri-cities: College Park, East Point and Hapeville. Everyone needs a place to be cherished. We invite you to make St John's yours!

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WELCOME TO ST JOHN'S

We are honored that you have chosen St. John's as your home for worship today.

We hope you will experience worship with your whole being. You might kneel, stand, pray, sing, listen, read, shake hands (or hug), eat, drink, sing, and even smell incense. Your presence here is all that is required for you to be in prayer and worship with us on this Lord's Day.

Know that there are no "mistakes" in worshipping God. Still, our worship here can be confusing. The bulletin is designed with you in mind and most rubrics (directions) are in italics. If you find you're out of sync with whatever is going on, do not worry. To God, *all of it* is prayer.

Our worship year is "color-coded." We are in a "blue" season now called Advent. Advent is a time of preparation. We light candles, chant, sing Advent carols, and pray in anticipation of the blessed day when God was born into the world as a human being in the person of Jesus Christ.

Please fill out a visitor card so we can get to know you and invite you into life together at St. John's. St. John's is a small church with a very big heart that loves well and enjoys our life together. We want to be known as a place that practices the radical kindness and hospitality of Jesus and where you can see that "God thinks you are fabulous - and so do we."

We will pray for you and hope to get to know you today. Please say hello to me after the service.

Peace

Tim+
The Reverend Tim Black
Priest-in-Charge

The Word of God

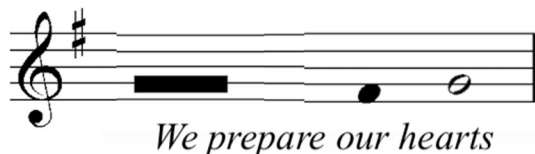
ADVENT LITANY

*The Congregation stands as the procession enters. The Advent candle(s) are lit.
The Congregation stands as the Choir and Priest enter. The Priest or one appointed chants followed by the response. The Advent candle(s) are lit.
Cantor or Priest*



God, we are a people in darkness

Cantor: Lord Jesus, you are the ' light of the world



We prepare our hearts

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

*Cantor: You are light in our darkness.
Come, Lord Jesus.*

*Cantor: Son of God, save us from our sins.
Come, Lord Jesus.*

*Cantor: Son of Mary, deepen our love.
Come, Lord Jesus.*

*Cantor: Bring hope into the lives of all people.
Come, Lord Jesus.*

*Cantor: Give your peace to all nations.
Come, Lord Jesus.*

*Cantor: Be the joy of all who love you.
Come, Lord Jesus.*

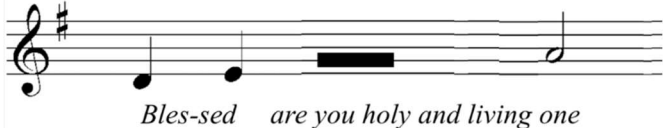
*Cantor: Bring unity among all who believe in you.
Come, Lord Jesus.*


*Cantor: Bless us as we gather here in your name.
Come, Lord Jesus.*

*Cantor: Lord Jesus, stay with us always.
Come, Lord Jesus.*

Let us pray:

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Cantor:  *Bles-sed are you holy and living one*

People  *You come to your people and set them free*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: 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.*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel- vs. 1 -vs. 1 and 5 *Blue Hymnal* – 56

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel

O come thou branch of Jesse's tree
free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to law
in cloud and majesty and awe
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

The congregation is seated.

FIRST READING : Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Lisa Norton-Rotella

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.

Reader : The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm *Psalm 126 The Cantor will chant and the congregation is invited to chant with the Cantor*

PLEASE TURN TO THE NEXT PAGE FOR THE PSALM



- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- †3 Then they said among the nations, *
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Second Reading : 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Phyllis Smith

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

Celeste Hall

All remain standing.

Priest: Holy God, you have spoken through your prophets and called us to make straight the way of the Lord: Visit us with your grace to cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations, as we pray: God has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed. For what and for whom do we give thanks today?

You are invited to name your blessings and thanksgivings out loud or silently.

Intercessor: O God of peace, you have called your people to rejoice always and to pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances. Sanctify your Church and her members that our spirit and soul and body may be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God has done great things for us,

People: and we are glad indeed.

God of Justice and Mercy, you love justice and hate wrongdoing: Guide our leaders and all in authority, that they may bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, repair the ruined cities and cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

God has done great things for us,

People: and we are glad indeed.

God of Compassion, look upon the needs of the world: Proclaim the year of your favor, and clothe your children with the garments of salvation and the robe of righteousness.

God has done great things for us,

People: and we are glad indeed.

God of Grace, be among us in this community that we may be a people whom you have sanctified to testify to the light and to become oaks of righteousness.

God has done great things for us,

People: and we are glad indeed.

Receive our prayers for those for whom we pray in intercession, especially Eleanor Buchanon, Barbarine Thorpe, Claude Lindsey, Frank Harrell, Melissa Brady,

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Linda Brown, Vicky Tucker, Mike Spring, Fonda Howland and Charles Howland.

Comfort all who mourn, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit, as we remember before you those who have died, especially Keme Jacobs.

God has done great things for us,

People: and we are glad indeed.

Priest: Loving God, your Advent people look expectantly for the coming of Christ: As the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, nurture our prayers and the thoughts of our hearts, that we may receive with joy the goodness of your strength and live in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

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

People: And also with you.

We conclude the Passing of the Peace by singing:

God is so good (3X)

God's so good to me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

The Holy Communion

The Priest says:

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

OFFERTORY HYMN

Hymn 71

Hark the Glad Sound!

St Anne.



1. Hark! the glad sound! the Sav-ior comes, the Sav-ior prom-ised long;
2. He comes, the priso-ners to re-lease, in Sa-tan's bond-age held
3. He comes, the bro-ken heart to bind, the blee-ding soul to cure;
4. Our glad hos-an-nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel- come shall pro- claim;



let ev-ery heart pre-pare a throne, and eve-ry voice a song.
 the gates of brass be-fore him burst the ir-on fett-ters yield.
 and with the trea-sures of his grace to enrich the hum-ble poor.
 and heaven's e-ter-nal arch-es ring with thy be-lov-ed name.

The congregation stands as the offering is brought forward by the Ushers

DOXOLOGY- *Tune, Greensleeves, trad.*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. — Praise God, all crea - tures



here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. — Praise



Fa - ther, Son, — and Ho - ly Ghost. This, this — is



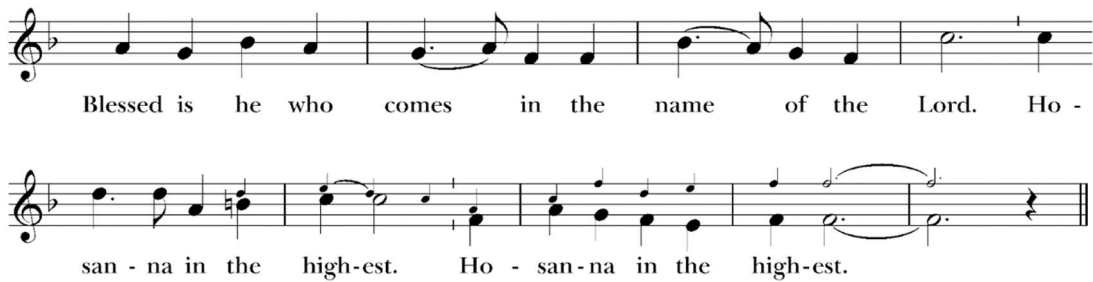
Christ the King, — whom shep - herds guard — and an - gels sing;



haste, haste — to bring him laud, — the babe, — the son — of Ma - ry.

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.



Priest: 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,

Celebrant and People: We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

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 Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed John and 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. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *AMEN.*

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

People and Celebrant

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
 be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
 dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
 as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
 us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
 from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
 and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome at God's table.

DISTRIBUTION : *We share communion in both kinds available by either intinction (dipping the host in wine) or drinking from the common cup. For the common cup, hold out one hand for bread only, two hands for bread and wine, or put your hands in a prayer position for a blessing. If you desire healing prayers, simply remain at the rail after receiving communion, and the priest or a healing minister will pray with you. If you need to stay seated and not come to the rail, the Eucharistic Ministers will bring communion to you.*

COMMUNION HYMN- *Go Tell it on the Mountain - Blue Hymnal 99*

The people stand or kneel, as able:

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: *Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the*

Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, God, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To Christ, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Priest blesses the people: May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN:: *People Look East - WLP 724*



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum-ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

Priest: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord, alleluia, alleluia

People: Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Night Supper is taking a break until January 10, 2024.

Bible Study is off until January 10th.

Church offices will be closed in observance of Christmas Week (12/25-12/29) Please call 404-275-2665 if you have a pastoral emergency and speak with Father Tim.

Thanks to all who brought gifts for Emmaus House. We will be taking them over this week.

Please send in your pledges for 2024. It is never too late to pledge.. Fill out a pledge card at church or download one on our homepage at www.stjohnscollegepark.org. Everyone on the mailing list got a pledge card in the mail, but if you need another, please email info@stjohnscollegepark.org and we will send you one. **Give by Texting-** Just text 73256 and enter our code 3480. You will be taken to the giving page where you can make your selections.

Subscribe to Eagle Notes: at www.stjohnscollegepark.org, scroll to the bottom of the homepage, and click the link to sign up. nscollegepark.org

Online Prayer and Fellowship Groups: "Second Cup" – fellowship time- Mondays 11:00 AM – Noon – 869 7767 5734 Password: 752305 / Morning Prayer on Zoom Tuesday and Thursday- 10 AM - Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 869 7767 5734 Password: 752305 / Compline Night Prayer Thursday – 7:00 pm Meeting ID: 843 7684 4017 Password: 848486

Make Prayer Requests Online: <https://forms.gle/UTa6iMfrukhfurgD8>

Sunday December 17, 2023 Readers: Lisa Norton-Rotella & Phyllis Smith Prayers of the People: Celeste Hall Verger: Michael Proscia Priest in Charge: The Rev. Tim Black Church Administrator: Terry Glover	Vestry Daniel Hudson, Hospitality Archie Polk, Evangelism Michael Proscia, Jr. Warden Pat Roberts, Sr. Warden Val Valverde, Worship & Music Sherran Davis, Clerk Richard Pflieger, Treasurer
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Christmas at St. John's



Christmas Eve

10:00 AM -Holy Eucharist: Advent 4

3:30-Christmas Carol Sing

4:00- Holy Eucharist: The Feast of the Nativity

PEACE ON EARTH

Christmas Day

10:00 AM- Holy Eucharist

