



26 Washington Street

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT : Gaudete
7:30 am - Morning Prayer

15 December 2019
8:00 am - Holy Eucharist

10:00 am - Solemn Eucharist

Please switch off all cellular telephones and other electronic devices before the Liturgy begins. Also, kindly refrain from audible conversation to respect those wishing to pray and listen to the organ prelude. Thank you.

ORGAN - *Come Savior of the Gentiles*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

AT THE PROCESSION: HYMN 640 - *Aberystwyth*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Prayer Book, page 323

KYRIE ELEISON

at 10:00 a.m. - from Collegium Regale Mass

Prayer Book, page 324
Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. ***Amen.***

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON - *A Reading from the Book of 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. (35:1-10)

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL - *Lauda anima mea*

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

Psalm 146:4-9

Music: Anglican Chant, Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

THE SECOND LESSON - *A Reading from the Letter of James*

Be patient, 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. (5:7-10)

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE: HYMN - 68 Llangloffan

The people stand and turn to face the Book of Gospels

THE HOLY GOSPEL of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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." (11:2-11)

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

Dean Vang

THE NICENE CREED

Prayer Book, page 327

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant My brothers and sisters, let us rejoice heartily in the Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world was made in the beginning and through whom it will be renewed at the end of time. Filled with confidence in God's promised salvation, let us present these petitions to the Giver of every blessing.

Deacon For Christian Churches and communities, that the Lord's glad tidings will renew them in their words and deeds of discipleship. We pray especially for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Francis, the Bishop of Rome; Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; William, our Diocesan; Daniel, our Bishop retired, and Marshall and Paul, our Priests.

Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For leaders of governments, that the Lord's glad tidings will guide them in the ways of justice and peace,

Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick, that the Lord's glad tidings will heal them in mind and body,
Let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

For babies about to be born, that the Lord's glad tidings will bring them to the fullness of their humanity,
Let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

For this assembly of God's people, that the Lord's glad tidings will make us a source of spiritual joy for each other,
Let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died, that the Lord's glad tidings will be their everlasting joy,
Let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant Lord God, you have promised to renew all creation: the world of nature and the world of the spirit. Answer our prayers for enduring joy and gladness in Christ Jesus, for he is near us now, and will be with us in the world to come, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Celebrant and People

Everliving God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the door of mercy through which we pass day by day. Bless this parish and its leaders as we expand to become a compassionate community among our neighbors. May the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and the work of our hands enable Mercy House to be a home where those in need may live together in the bond of peace and love; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, for ever and ever. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Deacon Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy name. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an Absolution.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People ***And with thy spirit.***

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

ANTHEM - *Rejoice In the Lord Always*

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.
Let your softness be known to all men:
the Lord is e'en 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,
keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

Words: Anonymous (16th cent.)
Music: David Willcocks 1919 – 2015)

HYMN 72 - *Richmond*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, *Eucharistic Prayer I*

Prayer Book, page 333

PROPER PREFACE OF ADVENT

Because thou didst send thy 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.

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT - *Hymnal S114*

Prayer Book, page 341

OUR FATHER

Prayer Book, page 336

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD: AGNUS DEI - *Hymnal S158*

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Prayer Book, page 337

MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who are baptized are invited to receive the Body & Blood of Christ.

MOTET - *Alma Redemptoris Mater*

Alma Redemptoris Mater,
quae pervia caeli porta manes,
Et stella maris,
succurre cadenti, Surgere qui curat populo;
Tu quae genuisti, natura mirante tuum
sanctum Genitorem,
Virgo prius ac posterius,
Gabrielis ab ore sumens illud.
Ave, peccatorum Miserere.

*As the loving Mother of the Redeemer,
gate of heaven,
and the star of the sea,
assist your people who have fallen yet strive.
You who bore the wonderment of nature
your Creator,
yet virgin first and last,
Gabriel was with you at those times.
Hail, we have sinned against thee, have mercy*

Words: Marian Antiphon
Music: Giovanni Palestrina (1525-1594)

THE CONCLUDING RITE

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Prayer Book, page 339

ADVENT BLESSING

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.*

DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

HYMN 74 - *Valet will ich dir geben*

ORGAN - *From Heaven Above*

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

WORSHIPING THIS MORNING

We welcome all visitors to Bethesda. Please identify yourself to the clergy and sign the Register in the Narthex, located next to the vestibule door.

Large print copies of the service leaflet are available. An usher would be happy to assist you. A wheelchair, located near the handicap lift in the vestibule, is available to those who require it.

Please join us for REFRESHMENTS in the Narthex, immediately following the ten o'clock liturgy.

ASSISTING AT OUR LITURGIES TODAY

	8:00am	10:00am
<i>Celebrant</i>	Dean Vang	Dean Vang
<i>Assisting Priest</i>		Father Evans
<i>Lay Eucharistic Minister[s]</i>	Robert Bullock	Robert Bullock David Wilder
<i>Lay Eucharistic Visitor</i>		Virginia McMorris
<i>Lectors</i>	Thomas Remington	Kim Caughron David Wilder
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Mary Withington	Christine Miller
<i>Bell Ringers</i>		Manny Family
<i>Ushers</i>		Richard Wissler Christopher Lyons John Van der Veer Fred Scheidt
<i>Hospitality</i>		Diane Robinson

NOTICES

In our INTERCESSIONS FOR THE CHURCH today, we pray for
Anglican Communion Sokoto, Nigeria
Diocese of Albany Prison Chaplains and the incarcerated
Our Parish The Vestry

A basket in the vestibule awaits your contributions of hygiene products to Economic Opportunity Council (EOC). These are taken monthly to assist those in need. Your assistance in gratefully appreciated.

A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, presented by the children of the First Baptist Church and Bethesda Church, will be offered at noon today at First Baptist. All are most cordially invited to attend this annual favorite

Offering envelopes for CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS AND THANKSGIVINGS must be returned to the parish office no later than December 17th for names to be included in the liturgical booklets.

NEXT SUNDAY: the preparation of the church for the Christmas Feast, immediately following the 10 am Sung Eucharist. Your assistance will be most appreciated.

THE VESTRY meets on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at 96 Ballston Avenue.

We invite those who wish to share A MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY [beverages and snacks] after the ten o'clock liturgy to sign-up on the designated list, at the narthex lectern. Your assistance with Bethesda's hospitality is very much appreciated.

HELP THOSE IN NEED THIS CHRISTMAS: Bethesda is collecting donated gift cards (e.g., Visa, Target, Walmart, etc.) today for those in need in our community to help make their Christmas more joyful. Bethesda will collect donated gift cards for clients of Transitional Services Association (TSA). Your donated gift cards will be distributed to local homeless families so they can purchase presents to celebrate the Christmas holiday. "It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you... yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand." (Mother Teresa).

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE: Transitional Services Association (TSA), one of Bethesda's and Mercy House's key housing partners, is selling Christmas trees at its main office at 127 Union Street (behind Saratoga National Bank, South Broadway). Supporting TSA is a wonderful way to support people with disabilities whom they serve and affirm our long term partnership with TSA. Look for a flyer at the back of the church, or visit TSA, 127 Union Street.

The RACE TRACK CHAPLAINCY is planning for this year's Christmas Party of local workers of the horse industry and their families. We want to make sure that each child receives an item of clothing, something to play with, a knick-knack of some sort, and that each family and single adult receives a gift card to a local store. Please help us! Monetary contributions may be made to the Race Track Chaplaincy of America - Saratoga Branch c/o The Reverend Alberto Matos. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA
December 16-22

Monday <i>Advent Weekday</i>		
Tuesday <i>Advent Weekday</i>		
Wednesday <i>Advent Ember Day</i>	12:10 p.m.	Holy Eucharist, <i>Transept Altar</i>
Thursday <i>Advent Weekday</i>	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, <i>Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga</i> Holy Eucharist, <i>Home of the Good Shepherd Memory Care, Saratoga</i>
Friday <i>Advent Ember Day</i>		
Saturday <i>SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE</i>		
Sunday <i>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	7:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, <i>Transept Altar</i> Holy Eucharist, <i>High Altar</i> Sung Eucharist, <i>High Altar</i> Refreshments, <i>The Narthex</i> Preparation of the Church for Christmas

The PARISH OFFICES are open from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. *Monday, Tuesday & Thursday*, 9 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. *Wednesday* and 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on *Friday*.

THE PARISH STAFF

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang, *Interim Rector*
The Reverend Paul F. Evans, *Assisting Priest*
Mrs. Barbara Latzko, *Parish Administrative Assistant*
Mr. Farrell Goehring, *Organist/Director of Music*
Dr. Kathleen Slezak, *Choral Director*
Mr. Robert E. Bullock, *Verger*

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