

17 DECEMBER 2023 10:30 A.M.

Our Saviour



The Third Sunday of Advent

With the Sunday School Christmas Presentation

www.oslc-warrenton.org

GATHERING

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The candles on the wreath remind us that Advent is a time of counting the days until Christ is manifest among us. As the wreath is lit, handbells chime with joy. Each week, one household lights the wreath and reads a verse of Scripture.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The presiding minister may comment briefly on the service, then invites the assembly to confess.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

People Look East

ELW 248

1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.

4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister offers the Prayer of the Day.

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

The assembly is seated.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION

Details and a list of the cast are printed on the back cover.

THE FIRST READING

I Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from First Thessalonians.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May 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. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

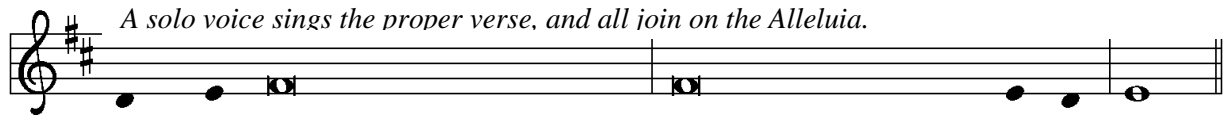
The reading concludes:

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

#169

The assembly stands to welcome the gospelI am sending my messen-^lger before you,*who will prepare your^l way before you.**GOSPEL***John 1:6-8, 19-28*

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.**SERMON**

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus. | 2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.
<i>Refrain</i> |
|--|---|

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

- 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Text © 1970, 1975 CelebrationSM

THE APOSTLES' CREED

An assisting minister leads the assembly in the Creed.

Let us confess the faith in which we have been baptized:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

An assisting minister invites the assembly to pray for those in need

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Turn the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Comfort your people with love and healing. Surround all who grieve, any who know depression or anxiety, or who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Grant patience to all who are awaiting mercy. Give hope to those seeking employment. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Be with (*names*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

MEAL

OFFERING

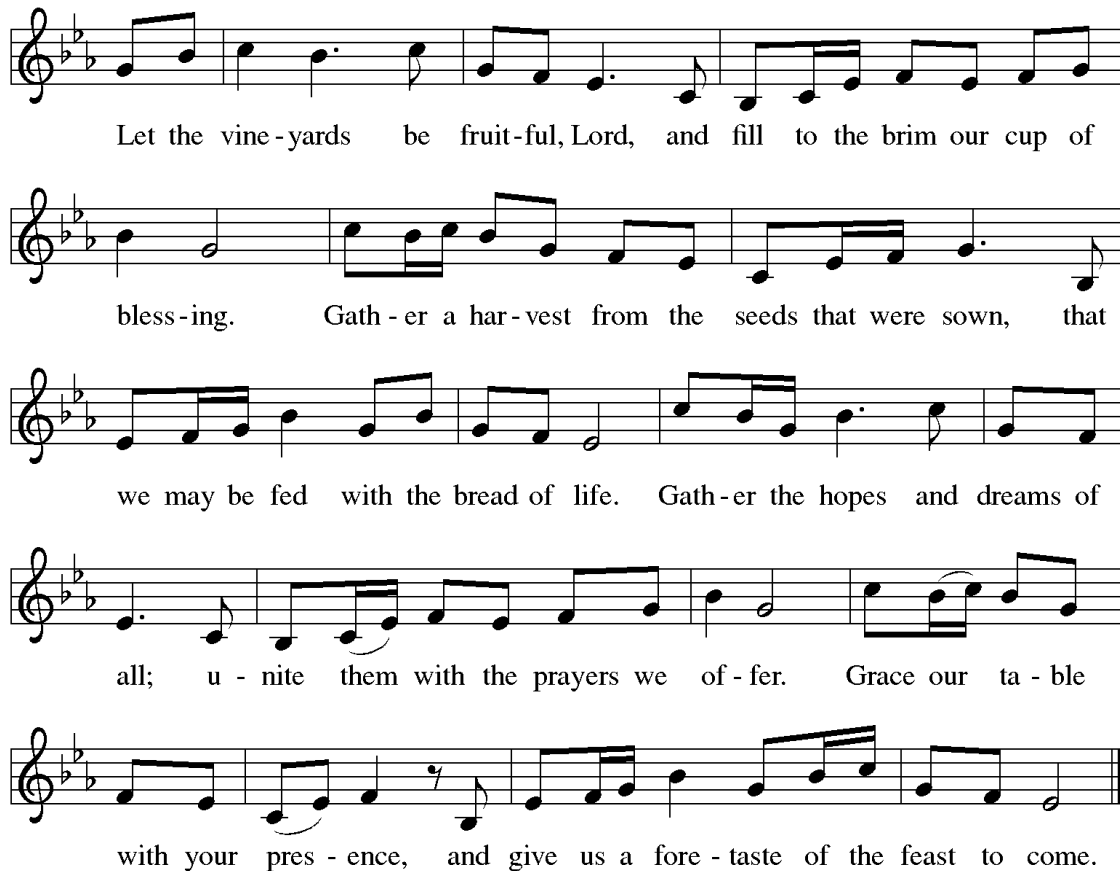
Let us offer back to God what God has first given us: our selves, our time, and our possessions – signs of God's gracious love.

An offering is received to support the ministry of Christ's church. Please contribute either online at oslc-warrenton.org, or using the plates that are passed.

OFFERING CANTICLE

#184

As the gifts are presented, we stand and sing.



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

The assisting minister offers this or a similar prayer.

Let us pray together. *[A brief silence]*

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

DIALOGUE

The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

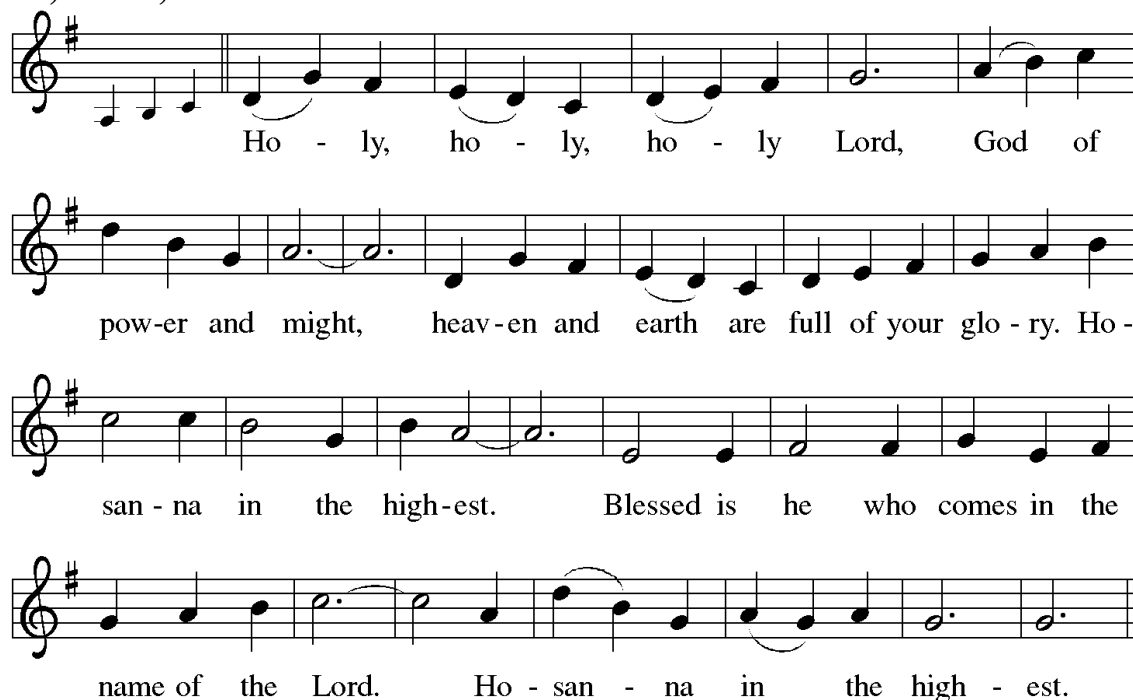
The presiding minister continues with the Preface of the season.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The presiding minister offers a sacrifice of praise and thanks.

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Savior taught us:

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, forever and ever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The minister invites the assembly to the table in the words of Zechariah 9:9:

Rejoice, O Jerusalem

The King is coming.

The assembly may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Christ in his Supper. To learn about being baptized, please ask a pastor.

You may consume the bread and drink from the chalice, or dip the bread into the chalice and consume them together. Those who do not receive may come forward with their arms crossed over their chest, and receive a pastoral blessing.

BLESSING

After all have returned to their places, the presiding minister gives a blessing.

Now may the true body of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and his most precious blood, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister offers a prayer.

Let us pray. *[A brief pause]*

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

The presiding minister blesses the assembly in the words of Numbers 6: 24-26.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you + peace.

Amen.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

On the following page

- 1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;
I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness,
and I am full of grace.
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age
this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me,
and holy is your name.
- 2 To all who live in holy fear
your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud,
their scheming hearts expose.
- 3 The ruthless you have cast aside,
the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things,
the rich sent off unfed.
- 3 To Israel, your servant blest,
your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made
their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One,
give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,
one God, by all adored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare your hearts.
Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Lucy, martyr, died 304**Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591**Thurs, Dec. 14, 2023**

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

Las Posadas (LLC)**Saturday, December 16, 2023**

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552**Wednesday, December 20, 2023**

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

The Christmas Story According to Us

Our Saviour is proud to present a delightful, original Sunday School Christmas Program during worship this morning, *The Christmas Story According to Us*. Our young actors and singers have been practicing weekly under the guidance of our author and director, **Saoirse Tucker**, and our amazing children's choir director, **Sally Ducharme**.

The play was written with input from the children, they described the story they wanted to tell and chose their roles, including some unusual character names. We hope that it brings you joy and enriches your Advent worship.

The play ends with two songs that are really part of our story: *Go Tell It On The Mountain* and *Joy to the World*.

*If you have come today with a child who would like to participate, please check with one of the teens in the narthex, they have masks and costume pieces that your child may wear to join in. We will be glad to have them!

The Cast

Meadow Keats *Mary*

David Keats *Joseph*

Isabella Brooks *Angel One*

Cai Tucker *Angel Two*

Lorelai Rees *Angel One*

Imogen Vogt *The Star*

Johanna Rocca *Jealous Customer*

Martin Rocca *Innkeeper*

Blair Rees *Donkey One*

Dane Rees *Donkey One Also*

Bitsy Stansell *Sheep Herd*

Maggie Scott *Sheep Herd*

Luke Knisely *Moral Support 1*

Jacob Knisely *Moral Support 2*

Cam Williar *Sign Carrier 1*

Miles Williar *Sign Carrier 2*

Jack Williar *Sign Carrier 3*

Following the play, the children will be led to the fellowship hall by a surprise character for a celebration! (Shhh! Don't tell!) Parents may remain in the service or go with their children.

The Faith Team is overwhelmed with gratitude for everyone who has had any part in this program, whether writing, leading, teaching, acting, encouraging children at home, or the myriad other things you have done. We especially want to recognize Saoirse Tucker and Sally Ducharme for their efforts and the Sunday School staff. Thank you all!