



ST. JAMES

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Third Sunday of Advent
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

December 15, 2024
5:00P.M.

***Welcome!** Whether you are a first-time visitor, longtime member, or somewhere in-between, welcome to this place where together we sing, read, pray, listen, and break bread in thanksgiving and praise of the living God whose love brings new life for us and for the world. **About the service:** An Episcopal worship service may seem difficult to follow if it is unfamiliar to you; please participate as you are able and ask someone near you for assistance if you need it. We use this leaflet and the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP). **For more information:** Fill out a welcome card, located in the pew rack, and drop it in the offering plate or return it by mail. Call the Parish Office at 225-387-5141 with questions about baptisms, weddings, membership, or any other needs.*

THE WORD OF GOD

The people stand when the ministers of the service enter

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

Trisagion *said three times*

BCP 356

The appointed Collect of the Day and Lessons are found on the next page.

The Sermon

The Rev. R. Lynn Hooks

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People

see insert

The Confession & Absolution

BCP 127

The Peace

BCP 360

Welcome & Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 407

The Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

The Blessing & Dismissal

BCP 366

Collect of the Day

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.**

Zephaniah 3:14-20

A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Read responsively by half verse.

Canticle 9

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *

and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *

from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

Luke 3:7-18

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Today's flowers are given to the greater glory of God
and in loving memory of Sue Ligon Coles by Chet & Janie Coles*



ST. JAMES

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

205 N. Fourth Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801
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The Prayers of the People – Form I

- Leader* With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying “Lord, have mercy.”
- For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- People* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader* For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.
- People* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader* For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.
- People* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader* For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.
- People* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader* For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.
- People* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader* For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- People* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader* For Sandy, Frank, Dean, Barbara, Harry, Karleen, and those on our prayer list, let us pray to the Lord.
- People* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader* For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- People* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader* For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, especially Shirley LeBlanc, Jeffrey Samson, Sheila Feigley, Tricia, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.
- People* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader* For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.
- People* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader* That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.
- People* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader* In the communion of St. James, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.
- People* **To you, O Lord our God.**