

Holy Eucharist  
**The Third Sunday of Advent**

Sunday, December 12, 2021— 8:00 a.m.



**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**  
Los Gatos, California

# The Liturgy of the Word

## The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Celebrant*      Our King and Savior draweth nigh:

*People*          **O come, let us adore him.**

*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

O God of peace and rest, whose love doth sustain us in times of strife and anxiety: Give us grace to trust in thee, knowing we are in thy hands and that nothing will keep us from thy comforting embrace, even in these darkening days of Advent as we await thy arrival; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Penitential Order

*Celebrant*      Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

*People*          **His mercy endureth forever.**

*The Celebrant may read an opening sentence.*

*The Celebrant then says*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Said by all*

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our  
    own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws,  
we have left undone those things which we ought to  
    have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to  
    have done.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

*The Celebrant stands and says*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **The Trisagion**

*Said three times*

*Celebrant*      Holy God,  
                      Holy and Mighty,  
                      Holy Immortal One,  
*People*            **Have mercy upon us.**

## **The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*            **And with thy spirit.**  
*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

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 First Lesson**

Zephaniah 3:14–20

*Reader*          The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Response: Canticle 9** (Isaiah 12:2–6)

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## **The Second Lesson**

Philippians 4:4–7

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Holy Gospel**

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

*People*            **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Luke 3:7–18

*Clergy*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

The Rev. Ricardo Avila

## **The Nicene Creed**

*Said by all*

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: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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**

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Lord, in thy mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Lucinda, our Bishop; and Ricardo, Nayan, Clark, Ernest, and Bill, our priests; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

Lord, in thy mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

Lord, in thy mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Joseph, our President, Gavin, our Governor, and the members of Congress and the Supreme Court, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Lord, in thy mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

Lord, in thy mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Lord, in thy mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Lord, in thy mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

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

## **Welcome and Announcements**

# The Holy Communion

## The Prayers Over the Gifts

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendor, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is thine. All things come from thee, **and of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

Blessed art thou, Lord, God of all creation; through thy goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the Bread of Heaven. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed art thou, Lord, God of all creation; through thy goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the Cup of Salvation. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, friends, that this our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty. **May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of His name, both to our benefit and that of all His Holy Church. Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharistic Prayer I*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People* **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. 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. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,



**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people kneel or stand.*

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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

*Said by all*

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**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## **Agnus Dei**

*Said by all*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.

## **The Prayer of Humble Access**

*Said by all*

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

*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.

## **The Post-Communion Prayer**

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

*Said by all*

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

## **The Advent Blessing**

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

*The Celebrant dismisses the people, and they respond*

**Thanks be to God.**





## **Servers—December 12, 2021**

Celebrant	The Rev. Nayan McNeill
Preacher	The Rev. Ricardo Avila
Lector	Grady Jeter
Usher	John Cleveland
Altar Guild	Ann Whyte & Elaine Smith



Cover: *Christmas Roses* by Cecil Kennedy (1905–1997) b. England

*St. Luke's Episcopal Church is a place of peace, beauty,  
and relationship that reflects God's saving presence  
through our rich Tradition, our intellectual curiosity,  
and our work in the wider community.*

## **Saint Luke's Clergy & Staff**

Rector	The Rev. Ricardo Avila revrico@stlukeslg.org
Assisting Clergy	The Rev. Ernest Cockrell The Rev. R. Clark Emerson The Rev. Nayan McNeill The Very Rev. William S. Stafford
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Parish Administrator	Mr. Michael King office@stlukeslg.org
Treasurer	Mr. Art Feather
Altar Guild Coordinator	Ms. Carol Graham
Liturgist	Mr. Pat Waddell
Outreach/Pantry Director	Ms. Jo Greiner
Rector Emeritus	The Rev. David R. Breuer

## **Saint Luke's Vestry • [vestry@stlukeslg.org](mailto:vestry@stlukeslg.org)**

Genevieve Cleveland	Martha Sterne
Toni Dick	Colin Whitby-Strevens
Craig Martyn	Ann Whyte (Junior Warden)
Monique Nicolai	Kirk Young (Senior Warden)
Jane Ogle	Carol Graham (Non-Vestry Clerk)

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