ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - WALPOLE, NH

Sunday, December 15, 2024, 10 am - Third Sunday of Advent

HOLY COMMUNION

PRELUDEMesse Du Jour De Noël by Paul de MaleingreauVladimir Odinokikh

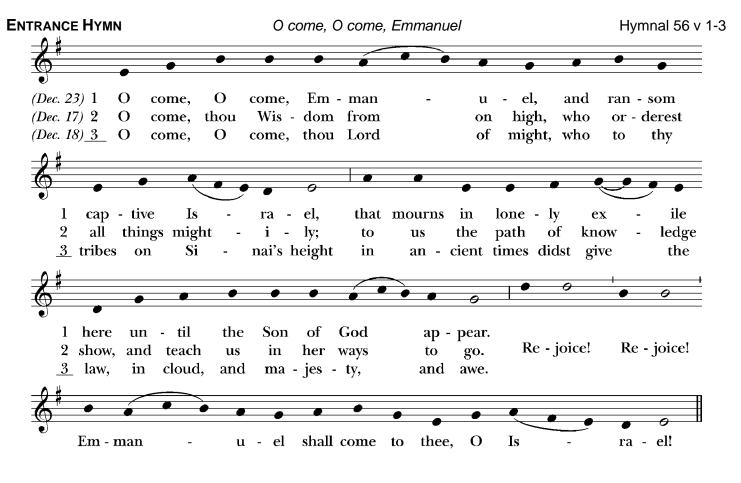
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH

Reader: We light the third Advent candle in preparation for the coming of God's Messiah. We prepare by repenting of our sins, and living lives devoted to loving God and serving our neighbor. *Light two purple and the pink candles* Come, Lord Jesus.

People: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD



All stand as they are ableCelebrant:Blessed are you, holy and living One.People:You come to your people and set them free.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Repeat three times

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant:The Lord be with you.People:And also with you.Celebrant: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**.

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST READING

People may be seated while Lector reads. 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.

Zephaniah 3:14-20

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.

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

CANTICLE 9

Lector and people read responsively by whole verse.

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 READING

People may remain seated while LEM reads.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

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.

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

Philippians 4:4-7



GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

People stand to hear the gospel.

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod 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.

The gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Fred Chisolm

THE CREED After a time of reflection, all stand as they are able

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 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

The LEM and people pray responsively. People remain standing if able.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, especially St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Concord, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially Richard and Jane Malmberg, Mary Warzecha, Judy Levison, Sara Crosby, Matt Pinson, Jessie McKenzie, Bob and Maryann Lindberg, Brianna Miller, Rebecca Cooper, Avery, Doug Barnes, John Tuttle, Mary Lou Montgomery, and Peggy Pschirrer, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Silence Lord, in your mercy Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant continues

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**.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

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

All stand. People may greet one another from their seats or unmute from Zoom to greet one another.

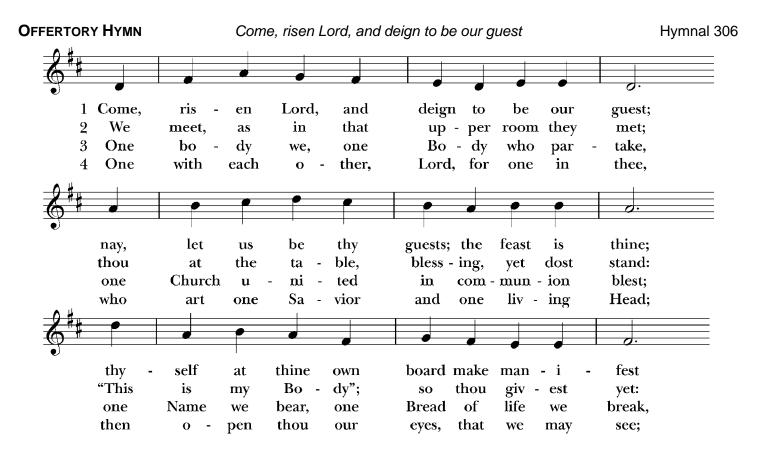
Celebrant:The peace of the Lord be always with you.People:And also with you.

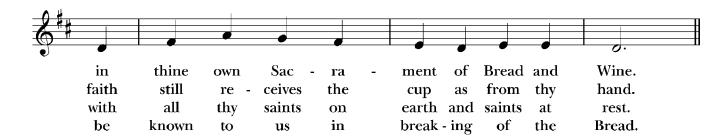
THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. Psalm 50:14

The congregation may be seated as the Offering is received.





DOXOLOGY

All stand.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

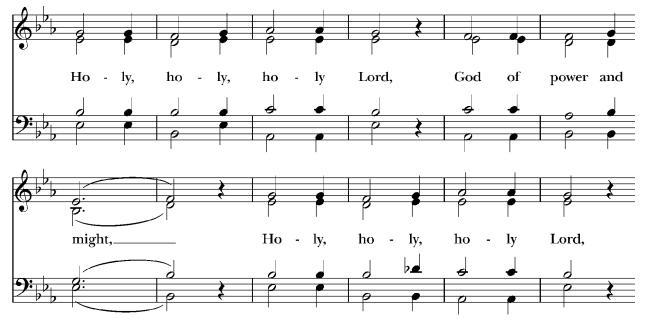
Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Hymnal S-130







The people stand or kneel

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,

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 [_______ 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 him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome at the Lord's table. If you wish a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are available; let the priest know at the altar that you'd like one.



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

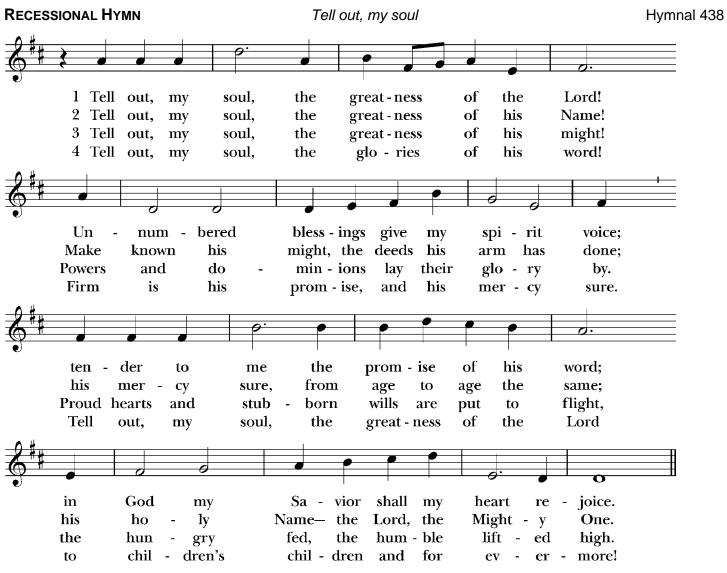
People stand as they are able

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

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



DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Please be seated and wait to begin greeting one another until after the postlude.**POSTLUDE**A Christmas Festival by L. Anderson

Vladimir Odinokikh

WORKING TOGETHER AT ST. JOHN'S

	This Sunday	Next Sunday	Christmas Eve
Celebrant:	The Rev. Frederick Chisolm	The Rev. Frederick Chisolm	The Rev. Frederick Chisolm
Rector:	The Rev. Frederick Chisolm	The Rev. Frederick Chisolm	The Rev. Frederick Chisolm
Deacon	The Rev. Deacon Bill Clark	The Rev. Deacon Bill Clark	The Rev. Deacon Bill Clark
Organist:	Vladimir Odinokikh	Amy Cann	Kathie Clark
Acolyte:	Conor O'Donnell	Conor O'Donnell	Conor O'Donnell
LEM	Sarah Downing	Joe Cuoco	Lisa Cuoco
Lector(s)	Al Sparks	Eric Herr	Many
Altar Guild	Karen Proctor	Lisa Cuoco	Mary Schoppmeyer
Flowers	Kris Tyson	Patti Sparks	Memorials
Ushers	Bill Tyson & Al Sparks	Chuck Loomis and Drew Street	Chuck Loomis & Sue Bauer
Counters	Mary Schoppmeyer & Kathie Clark	Lisa Cuoco & Linda O'Donnell	
Hospitality	Patti Sparks	Linda O'Donnell & Dot Herr	

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

Christmas Flowers

If you would like to donate Christmas flowers, please use the envelopes in the pews and put the envelopes in the offering plate. All flowers must be in by Sunday December 15th. Flowers might be "In Memory of" or "in Thanksgiving for". Christmas Flower memorials and thanksgivings will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Christmas Eve

The Christmas Eve service will be at 5:30 pm and will be followed by the Live Nativity on the Common.

Fall Mountain Food Shelf – Please Help

Alison brings eggs for sale. All the egg sales support the Fall Mountain Food Shelf, so please leave a contribution in the envelope in the egg basket when you take eggs home. Thanks for helping our food insecure neighbors.

Fall Mountain Food Shelf

During December we will focus on toilet paper, paper towels and feminine products. These are frequently requested items. Betsy McGuire is our Fall Mountain Food Shelf Coordinator.

Our Priest in Charge: The Rev. Fred Chisolm can be reached at (802) 649-6495 (cell) or via email at rector@StJohnsWalpole.org.

St. John's Vestry 2024: Marilyn Wilking (Senior Warden), Drew Street (Junior Warden), Sue Bauer (Treasurer), Linda O'Donnell (Clerk), Alison Brule, Joe Cuoco, and Chuck Loomis. Both wardens may be reached at <u>info@StJohnsWalpole.org</u>.