# st mary's catholic charch greenville, south carolina



second suppay of advent 7 december 2025



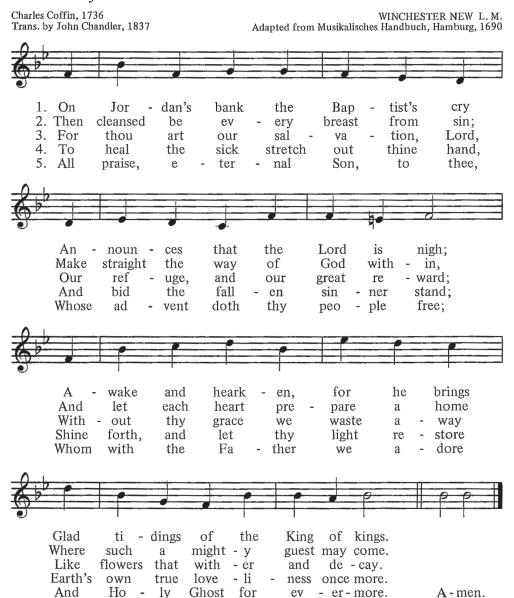
# Entrance Antiphon

Isaiah 30.19, 30

O people of Sion, behold, the LORD will come to save the nations, and the LORD will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

## Entrance Hymn

#### On Jordan's Bank



#### Penitential Act

#### Confiteor

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

All strike their breast, saying:

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest May almighty God have mercy on us,

forgive us our sins,

and bring us to everlasting life.

People Amen.

# Kyrie

Mass for Five Voices, William Byrd (Choir only)





# First Reading

Isaiah 11.1-10

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.

Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea. On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious.

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





R. Jus-tice shall flour-ish in his time, and full-ness of peace for ev-er.

O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; he shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

May his name be blessed forever; as long as the sun his name shall remain. In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed; all the nations shall proclaim his happiness.

# Second Reading

Romans 15.4-9

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I say that Christ became a minister of the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, to confirm the promises to the patriarchs, but so that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: *Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name.* 

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

#### Gospel Acclamation



Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God. *Response*.

Gospel Matthew 3.1-12

Deacon: The Lord be with you. **People: And with your spirit.** 

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord. **People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.** 

# Homily

#### Profession of Faith (spoken slowly and reverently)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

Bow profoundly during these two lines

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## The Bidding Prayers

The offering is for the support of the parish. You may donate online using the link below: Please Click Here to Make a Donation to Saint Mary's Church

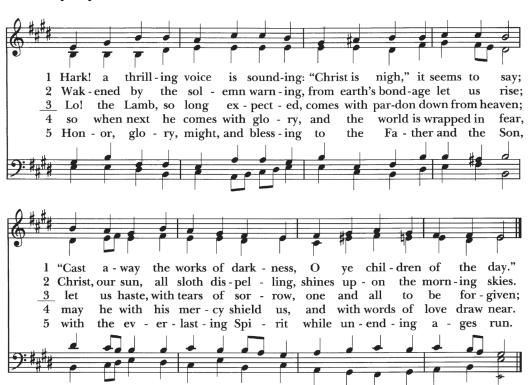
# Offertory Antiphon

Psalm 25.1-3

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

## Offertory Hymn

## Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding



Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861, alt.

Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935)



#### Offertory Anthem

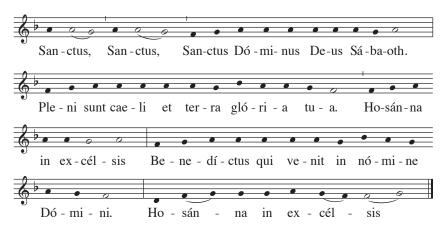
#### Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Praetorius; Hugo Distler

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung. It came, a flower bright, amid the cold of winter when half-gone was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind: with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright she bore to men a Savior when half-gone was the night.



#### Sanctus



Music: Vatican Edition XVIII; acc. by Richard Proulx

# Communion Rite

*Priest* At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

People 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.

*Priest* Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,

graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Priest Lord Jesus Christ.

who said to your Apostles:

Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,

look not on our sins,

but on the faith of your Church,

and graciously grant her peace and unity

in accordance with your will.

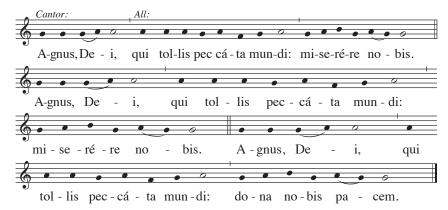
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

People Amen.

*Priest* The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People And with your spirit.

# Agnus Dei



Music: Vatican Edition XVIII; acc. by Richard Proulx



Priest Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

People Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.



# AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, I love you above all things.
How I long to receive you with my brothers
and sisters at the table you have prepared.
But since I cannot at this moment receive you in
the holy sacrament of your Body and Blood,
I ask you to feed me with the manna of your Holy Spirit
and nourish me with your holy presence.
I unite myself completely to you;
never permit me to be separated from your love.
Amen.

#### Communion Motets

#### This is the Record of John

Orlando Gibbons

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.

#### O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort

Johann Franck

O Jesus, grant me hope and comfort; O let me ne'er in sorrow pine. My ehart and soul, yea all my being, O Jesus trust alone in thee. Thou Prince of Peace, thou Pearl from heaven, True God, true Man, my Morning Star! O come thou precious Sun most radiant, thy beams illumine my heart and soul. O Jesus, with thy Advent, quiet my restless soul and anxious mind. In true humility I welcome thee Jesus Christ, my joy divine. My thoughts, desires and all my longings, I dedicate, O Christ to thee. O come thou precious Sun most radiant, thy beams illumine my heart and soul.







Priest The Lord be with you.People And with your spirit.

*Priest* May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People Amen.

Deacon Go in peace.

**People** Thanks be to God.

During Mass at St Mary's, the priest and people face the same direction at the altar, a custom that was once universal in the Catholic Church but is now rare in the celebration of the modern liturgy. For an explanation of this practice, please visit our parish website, smcgvl.org, and look in the section called *Parish Links* for the essay entitled *Facing East to Pray*.

PLEASE JOIN US
TODAY AT 5.00 PM
FOR
SOLEMN VESPERS
OF THE
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Page one: Tissot. The Voice in the Desert. (19th century.)

Page twelve: Lorenzo Monaco. Adoration of the Magi. (c. 1420).

Page thirteen: Lorenzo Monaco. St John the Baptist in initial F. (c. 1395).

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# from the office of readings for the second sanday of advent

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the paths of our God. The prophecy makes clear that it is to be fulfilled, not in Jerusalem but in the wilderness: it is there that the glory of the Lord is to appear, and God's salvation is to be made known to all mankind.

It was in the wilderness that God's saving presence was proclaimed by John the Baptist, and there that God's salvation was seen. The words of this prophecy were fulfilled when Christ and his glory were made manifest to all: after his baptism the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove rested on him, and the Father's voice was heard, bearing witness to the Son: *This is my beloved Son, listen to him.* 

The prophecy meant that God was to come to a deserted place, inaccessible from the beginning. None of the pagans had any knowledge of God, since his holy servants and prophets were kept from approaching them. The voice commands that a way be prepared for the Word of God: the rough and trackless ground is to be made level, so that our God may find a highway when he comes. *Prepare the way of the Lord:* the way is the preaching of the Gospel, the new message of consolation, ready to bring to all mankind the knowledge of God's saving power.

Climb on a high mountain, bearer of good news to Zion. Lift up your voice in strength, bearer of good news to Jerusalem. These words harmonize very well with the meaning of what has gone before. They refer opportunely to the evangelists and proclaim the coming of God to men, after speaking of the voice crying in the wilderness. Mention of the evangelists suitably follows the prophecy on John the Baptist.

What does Zion mean if not the city previously called Jerusalem? This is the mountain referred to in that passage from Scripture: *Here is mount Zion, where you dwelt. The Apostle says: You have come to mount Zion.* Does this not refer to the company of the apostles, chosen from the former people of the circumcision?

This is the Zion, the Jerusalem, that received God's salvation. It stands aloft on the mountain of God, that is, it is raised high on the only-begotten Word of God. It is commanded to climb the high mountain and announce the word of salvation. Who is the bearer of the good news but the company of the evangelists? What does it mean to bear the good news but to preach to all nations, but first of all to the cities of Judah, the coming of Christ on earth?

- From a commentary on Isaiah by Eusebius of Caesarea, bishop (b. 260; d. 30 May 339)

# from the pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

- 1. This Monday, 8 December, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day of obligation, and there will be three Masses: 7 am, 12 noon, and 7 pm.
- 2. A holy day of obligation is a day on which Catholics are obliged to attend Mass, and unless one is impeded by unavoidable work or serious illness, not to attend Mass on that day is a grave sin. Every Sunday of the year is a holy day of obligation by divine precept, and several other days of the year are holy days of obligation by ecclesiastical precept, meaning that the Church is exercising the binding part of the power of binding and loosing given to the Apostles by the Lord Jesus. In the United States, these days of obligation are: 1 January, the Solemnity of the Mother of God; 15 August, the Solemnity of the Assumption; 1 November, the Solemnity of All Saints; 8 December, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and 25 December, the Solemnity of the Birth of the Lord Jesus. By decision of the Bishops of the United States, the obligation to attend Mass on three of these five holy days is remitted if in a given year the feast falls on a Monday or Saturday, and the three are 1 January, 15 August, and 1 November. The Solemnity of the Ascension is also a holy day of obligation, but in the United States that observance is now transferred from 40 days after Easter to the following Sunday, so it is not necessary to count it separately.
- 3. All of the above means that in a year when none of the holy days falls on a Sunday, Catholics are expected to attend Mass a minimum of 59 times. Even if you allow an hour of travel time for each Mass, that comes to about 120 hours each year for us to be at Mass or traveling to and from Mass. Most studies show that Americans spend an average of 1500 to 1800 hours each year watching television or another flickering screen, and the Church asks us for 120 hours each year to worship the living God in spirit and truth. When we so easily give ourselves to 15 hours of entertainment for each hour spent in the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist, how is it possible that so many Catholics simply don't bother to accept the invitation of the Lord Jesus to "Do this in memory of me"?
- 4. Resolve now to come to Mass this Monday to celebrate the Immaculate Conception of our parish patroness, to make every effort in the coming year to attend Mass each Sunday and holy day, and to help a faltering Catholic return to regular practice of the faith in the same way. And when someone misses Mass on a Sunday or holy day (unless unavoidable work or serious illness is the reason), then please remember that it is necessary to go to Confession before receiving Holy Communion at the next Mass attended. In all of these ways, we give ourselves ever more completely to the love of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Father Newman