

*st mary's catholic church  
greenville, south carolina*



*third sunday of advent  
15 december 2024*


 INTRODUCTORY RITES
 

Entrance Antiphon

Philippians 4.4-5

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*

Entrance Hymn

O Come, Divine Messiah



1. O come, Di-vine Mes - si - ah, The world in si - lence waits the day
2. O come, De-sired of na - tions, Whom priest and proph - et long fore-told,
3. O come, in peace and meek-ness, For low - ly will your cra - dle be:



When hope shall sing its tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.  
Will break the cap - tive fet - ters, Re-deem the long-lost fold.  
Though clothed in hu - man weak-ness We shall your God-head see.



Dear Sav - ior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dis - pel the night and show your



face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace. O



come, Di-vine Mes - si - ah, The world in si - lence waits the day When



hope shall sing its tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.

Text: *Venez, divin Messie*: Abbé Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, 1663-1745; Tr. by S. Mary of St. Philip, 1877  
Tune: VENEZ, DIVIN MESSIE, 7 8 7 6 with refrain; French Noël, 16th C.; Harm. by Healey Willan, 1880-1968, © 1958, Ralph Jusko Publications, Inc.



# 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)*

## Collect



## First Reading

Zephaniah 3.14-18a

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has removed the judgment against you, he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**



## Responsorial Psalm

Isaiah 12.2-3, 4, 5-6

☩ Cry out with joy and glad-ness: for a - mong you  
is the great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

God indeed is my savior;  
I am confident and unafraid.  
My strength and my courage is the LORD,  
and he has been my savior.  
With joy you will draw water  
at the fountain of salvation.

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name;  
among the nations make known his deeds,  
proclaim how exalted is his name.

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement;  
let this be known throughout all the earth.  
Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,  
for great in your midst  
is the Holy One of Israel!

## Second Reading

## Philippians 4.4-7

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**



## Gospel Acclamation



The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring glad tidings to the poor. *Response.*

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with your spirit.**

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

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Gospel

Luke 3.10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, “What should we do?” He said to them in reply, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He answered them, “Stop collecting more than what is prescribed.” Soldiers also asked him, “And what is it that we should do?” He told them, “Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages.”

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, “I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

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 Collection

*The offering is for the support of the parish, and for the Church in Africa.*

[Please Click Here to Make a Donation to Saint Mary's Church.](#)

# Offertory Antiphon

Psalms 85.2

*O Lord, you have favored your land; you have restored the well-being of Jacob.  
You have forgiven the iniquity of your people.*

# Offertory Hymn

# Come, O Long-Expected Jesus



1. Come, O long ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set your peo - ple free;  
2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, You, the hope of all the earth,  
3. Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!  
4. By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Free us from cap - tiv - i - ty.  
Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Come, and save us by your birth.  
Born to reign in us for ev - er, Now your gra - cious king - dom bring.  
By your all suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to your glo - rious throne.

Text: Hag. 2:7; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Tune: STUTTGART, 8 7 8 7; Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716; Harm. by Kenneth D. Smith, b.1928, © National Christian Education Council





## Offertory Anthem

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*Arlen Clarke*

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. O come, O come, Desire of nations; bind in one the hearts of humankind; O bid our sad divisions cease, and be for us our King of Peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*



*Priest* Pray, brethren,  
that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God,  
the Almighty Father.

*People* **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good  
and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer Over the Offerings

✠ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER ✠

## Preface Dialogue

*Priest:* The Lord be with you. *Assembly:* And with your Spir - it.

*Priest:* Lift up your hearts. *Assembly:* We lift them up to the Lord.

*Priest:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Assembly:* It is right and just.

## Sanctus

San - ctus, San - ctus, San - ctus Dó - mi - nus De - us Sá - ba - oth.

Ple - ni sunt cae - li et ter - ra gló - ri - a tu - a. Ho - sán - na

in ex - cél - sis Be - ne - dí - ctus qui ve - nit in nó - mi - ne

Dó - mi - ni. Ho - sán - na in ex - cél - sis

Music: Vatican Edition XVIII; acc. by Richard Proulx

## Mystérium Fidei (The Mystery of Faith)

We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro - fess your

Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come\_ a - gain.

 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

*Cantor:* *All:*



A-gnus, De - i, qui tol-lis pec cá-ta mun-di: mi-se-ré-re no - bis.

A-gnus, De - i, qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun - di:

mi - se - ré - re no - bis. A - gnus, De - i, qui

tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun - di: do - na no - bis pa - cem.

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.**

*Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.*



***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

*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.*

*O Savior Sweet*

*Bach*

*O Savior sweet, O Savior kind, thy Father's will has all thy mind. From Heaven Thou hast vouchsafed to come, with men as Man to make thy home. O Savior sweet. O Savior kind. O Savior sweet, O Savior kind, the way to please Thee we would find. What e'er we have, it comes of Thee, O let us ever near Thee be. O Savior sweet, O Savior kind. O Savior sweet, O Savior kind, Who came to earth the lost to find; who dies to save us on the tree, our hearts are filled with love to Thee. O Savior sweet, O Savior kind.*

*Chorale: Thee with tender care I'll cherish. Live to thee, die to thee; Thus I shall not perish. But with thee abide forever. Joyfully, peacefully where life endeth never.*



Communion Hymn

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing  
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance since the  
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
 king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
 fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her  
 Now pre - pare for God a way; let the val - leys  
 now o'er earth is shed a - broad; and all flesh shall



sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
 rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.  
 see the to - ken that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.  
 Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*

87. 87. 77. 88



✠ CONCLUDING RITES ✠

*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.**

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

*Page one:* Saint Mary's Catholic Church, Greenville, SC.

*Page five:* Titian. *Saint John the Baptist.* (1540).

*Page nine:* Sano di Pietro. *The Adoration of the Magi.* (c. 1470).

*Page thirteen:* Pier Francesco Mola. *Saint John the Baptist in the Wilderness.* (c. 1640).

*Page fourteen:* *Page fourteen:* Giotto. Lower Church, Assisi. (1310).



# holiday liturgical schedule

## CHRISTMAS EVE

### TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER 2024

5.00 pm *Mass in the Clinkscales Center for families with children*

5.00 pm *Sung Mass in the church*

7.00 pm *Sung Mass in the church*

8.40 pm *Choir Program in the church (Streamed on Facebook)*

9.00 pm *Solemn Mass During the Night (Streamed on Facebook)*

*(The Mass During the Night takes the place of the Mass at Midnight.)*

## ❖ CHRISTMAS DAY ❖

### WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER 2024

11.00 am *Mass in the church*

1.00 pm *Spanish Mass in the church*

*No Holy Hour or Confessions on 25 December 2024 and 1 January 2025*

*No Mass on Thursday 26 December 2024*

## ❖ SOLEMNITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD ❖

### TUESDAY 31 DECEMBER 2024

5.00 am *Sung Mass*

### WEDNESDAY 1 JANUARY 2025

9.00 am *Sung Mass*

11.00 am *Solemn Mass*

1.00 pm *Spanish Mass*

## from the office of readings for the third sunday of advent

John is the voice, but the Lord is *the Word who was in the beginning*. John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives for ever.

Take away the word, the meaning, and what is the voice? Where there is no understanding, there is only a meaningless sound. The voice without the word strikes the ear but does not build up the heart.

However, let us observe what happens when we first seek to build up our hearts. When I think about what I am going to say, the word or message is already in my heart. When I want to speak to you, I look for a way to share with your heart what is already in mine.

In my search for a way to let this message reach you, so that the word already in my heart may find place also in yours, I use my voice to speak to you. The sound of my voice brings the meaning of the word to you and then passes away. The word which the sound has brought to you is now in your heart, and yet it is still also in mine.

When the word has been conveyed to you, does not the sound seem to say: *The word ought to grow, and I should diminish?* The sound of the voice has made itself heard in the service of the word, and has gone away, as though it were saying: *My joy is complete*. Let us hold on to the word; we must not lose the word conceived inwardly in our hearts.

Do you need proof that the voice passes away but the divine Word remains? Where is John's baptism today? It served its purpose, and it went away. Now it is Christ's baptism that we celebrate. It is in Christ that we all believe; we hope for salvation in him. This is the message the voice cried out.

Because it is hard to distinguish word from voice, even John himself was thought to be the Christ. The voice was thought to be the word. But the voice acknowledged what it was, anxious not to give offense to the word. *I am not the Christ*, he said, *nor Elijah, nor the prophet*. And the question came: *Who are you, then?* He replied: *I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord*.

*The voice of one crying in the wilderness* is the voice of one breaking the silence. *Prepare the way for the Lord*, he says, as though he were saying: "I speak out in order to lead him into your hearts, but he does not choose to come where I lead him unless you prepare the way for him."

*To prepare the way* means to pray well; it means thinking humbly of oneself. We should take our lesson from John the Baptist. He is thought to be the Christ; he declares he is not what they think. He does not take advantage of their mistake to further his own glory.

If he had said, "I am the Christ," you can imagine how readily he would have been believed, since they believed he was the Christ even before he spoke. But he did not say it; he acknowledged what he was. He pointed out clearly who he was; he humbled himself.

He saw where his salvation lay. He understood that he was a lamp, and his fear was that it might be blown out by the wind of pride.

- From a sermon by Saint Augustine, bishop  
(b. 354; d. 430 AD)

## *from the pastor*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Saint Mary's Church will be 175 years old in 2027, and we will celebrate that anniversary with a Mass and grand party on Saturday 6 November 2027. Please put that date in your calendars now!

Because of the destruction of records during the Great Fire of Charleston in 1861 we don't know the exact date on which our parish was founded, but I have chosen November 6th for our celebration because that date will be the 123rd anniversary of the dedication of the first half of our church. The original church stretched from the rear wall of the chancel to the side doors which are now in the middle of the building, and the second half was added fifty years later. Then in 2002 we renovated the entire church during our 150th anniversary year.

During the history of our little corner of the vineyard (long in the history of this nation and short in the history of the Church), Saint Mary's has become a refuge of goodness and peace in the midst of the world, and we are blessed beyond all telling to be the current stewards of such a home for the worship of God, the teaching of divine wisdom, the service of those in need, and the fellowship of disciples who seek companions on the Way of the Lord Jesus. And as stewards of these gifts, it is our sacred duty to preserve and enhance what we have received and then to pass along this green and pleasant parish to future generations.

If you have ever felt your pew seat moving beneath you or struggled to trust a kneeler to do its duty, then you know why we must replace all of the pews and kneelers in the church. And the same is true of the wood wainscoting which runs the length of the building and conceals the HVAC equipment from sight. We must also patch and paint the plaster, and it is well past time to prepare our thirty-four year old organ for its next generation of service.

In addition to those tasks, we at long last need to provide indoor rest rooms and accessible confessionals, along with a nursery that can also serve as a bride's room, and that is why we will build an annex to the church in the green space along the sidewalk of Washington Street. It will connect to the church in the spot now occupied by the confessional on the west side of the building, and that connection will allow access to the rest rooms without going outside or climbing stairs.

I don't know if we can accomplish all of these tasks before our 175th anniversary party on 6 November 2027, but we're going to try! A great deal depends on your generosity to our building fund, and so I appeal to you for support as we approach the end of the year. Everything we do here is made possible by your sacrificial gifts, and I am deeply grateful for your commitment to the mission of this parish church dedicated to the Mother of God under the title of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Father Newman