



The Second Sunday of Advent

10 December 2023 · 9:00 a.m.

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd
ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

Morning Prayer

The Opening Sentences

The officiant begins with one or more of the following

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One. *-Baruch 5:5*

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also. *-Isaiah 45:8*

The officiant then says

God's bright glory will shine,
and everyone will see it.

O Holy One, thank you for coming to us anew this day. Prepare our hearts and reawaken our love for you as we discern your call within us. May we join with you in making level the path for all people. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ, let us confess our sins.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Hymn Prepare the way, O Zion

Bereden vag for Herran

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

1. You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
2. You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.
8. I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
9. Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
10. Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
11. Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
12. The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.
13. Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Reader A reading from Isaiah.

“Comfort, O comfort my people,” says your God. “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.” A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle

Canticle P (Revelation 22:12-17)

The Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Reader A reading from the second letter of Peter.

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**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 Prayers of the People

Hear our cry, O God.
And listen to our prayer.
Let us pray.

God of compassion,
Teach us to embody your love.
God of faithfulness,
Help us be constant in service.
God of all creation,
Give us compassion for all your children.
God of blessing,
hear our prayers.

Here, the people may add intercessions or thanksgivings.
God of love,
Draw our hearts to you.

The Collect of the Day

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

An Advent Collect

God of hope, you call us from the exile of our sin with the good news of restoration; you build a highway through the wilderness; you come to us to bring us home. Comfort us with the expectation of your saving power, made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect for Mission

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Announcements from Good Shepherd

Announcements from St. John's

Thanksgiving for Birthdays, Anniversaries, and other Milestones

Please use the chat feature to announce birthdays, anniversaries, or other milestones to be celebrated.

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Even in the waiting,
God is with us.
Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

-Romans 15:13

Hymn On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Winchester New



Parish Announcements

Jubilee Christmas—A Huge Success

Many thanks to everyone who helped with Jubilee Christmas at St. John's. Thanks to everyone who coordinated from Good Shepherd and St. John's—including Cathy Baron, Georgia Brist, Hilary Cooke, Mary Kay McCauley, Maggie McClure, and Angela Mosier. Thanks to our shoppers and those who helped with setup. Thanks to our hosts, cookie bakers, and other volunteers! We served 40 families, with more than 150 children and teenagers.

Hanging of the Greens Sunday, December 17, after the 10:15 Service

Please stick around after the 10:15 service to help ready the church for Christmas. Lunch will be served.

'Longest Night' Service - Wednesday, December 20, at 6 p.m.

The Christmas season can be a painful time. While the joyful sounds of the season are all around us — on the radio and television, in shopping malls, and in our churches — many of us are reminded of what we have lost or never had. Broken relationships, unemployment, ill health, the pain of isolation — all these can make us feel alone amid celebration. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern; we need to know that we are not alone.

To honor and name the difficulty of this season, **St. John's will host a "Longest Night" Service at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20.** Let us join together, sharing and hearing prayers, Scripture, and music that acknowledge God's presence for those who struggle and for those who mourn. Hear the good news that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

End-of-Year Giving to St. John's

Each week throughout the year contributions that are delivered to the office, either in person or through the mail, are counted and then deposited with the offerings received on the following Sunday. December 24 - 25 will be the last opportunity to have your contributions counted and deposited in 2023. (Even though there will be an electronic deposit made on December 31, the deposit won't clear the bank until January 2.) Hand delivered contributions should be delivered to the office by December 22 as the office will be closed December 23 through January 1. If you are mailing your contribution, please allow at least seven to 10 days for delivery. Mailed contributions should also reach the parish office by December 22.

Epiphany Pageant Sunday, January 7, at St. John's

St. John's will host an Epiphany Pageant of lessons and hymns on Sunday, January 7. There will be only one service that Sunday at 10:15 a.m. All children ages 3 through the eighth grade are invited to participate. We will have a rehearsal at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 6, at St. John's. Please contact Amanda Yauney at amanda@stjohns-laf.org with any questions. More information will be forthcoming.

Advent and Christmas at ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

Find the complete Advent and Christmas schedule at www.stjohns-laf.org/christmas.

Parish Prayer List

St. John's Cycle of Prayer—Alyce Dressler, Sue Eichhorn, Gayle Ennis, Sharon Evander

Parish Prayer List—Rosemarie Goonewardene, Sue Eichhorn, Don Nead, Janet Huber, Ginny Hull, Pam Ogorzaly, Barbara Hess, Paul Lawson, Pequita Behrndt, Douglas Campbell, Carolyn Speer, Carol Helgerman, John Howland, Alyce Dressler, John & Elizabeth Barrett, Bill McInerney, Jerry & Sandra, Terry, Lori, Martie, Joy, Ben, Judy, Rhianna, Josh, Chris, Rosemary, Deb, Paul, Marcus, Ben, Brent, Gabby, Kirsten, Pam, Wendell, Charles, Kay, Dale, Sara & Jim, Crystal, and their families.

For the people of Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine; for hostages and all innocent civilians in harm's way; for peace in all places of conflict; for the victims of violence; and for repair, understanding, and healing across the world, in our nation, and within our communities.

For those who have died—For all who have died, including those buried in the St. John's Memorial Garden

The leaders of our Communion—Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, the Presiding Bishop; & Jennifer our Bishop

St. John's Leadership, Staff, Clergy, & Seminarian—The Vestry, Wardens, and Volunteer staff; Amanda, Eva, Michael, & Teresa; Jason, Bradley, & Carolin

Our Ministry Partners—The Diocese of Brasilia and their bishop Mauricio and the Diocese of Haiti and St. Andre's, Mithon; The Church of Pakistan, and Trinity, Anderson.

This nation and all in authority—Joe, our President; Eric, our Governor; and Tony and John, our mayors and Erin, mayor-elect

ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

Worshiping · Sharing · Making Christ Known

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Parish Staff & Leadership

Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Bishop · Bradley Pace, Rector

Jason Fortner, Curate · Teresa Lohrman, Associate for Administration & Finance

Michael Bennett, Director of Music · Amanda Yauney, Director of Christian Education

Becky Dick, Sr. Warden · Bruce Johnson, Jr. Warden

St. John's is a parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Indianapolis.

