



The Third Sunday of Advent

17 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 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

Merton

Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

The First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Reader A reading from Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Reader A reading from First Thessalonians.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to John.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

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.**

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 Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes

Richmond



Parish Announcements

Advent and Christmas at ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

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

'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.

Parish Prayer List

St. John's Cycle of Prayer— Brent & Elizabeth Ladd, Keith & Samantha LeGrand, Marilyn & Randy Leigh, Karen Lohmeyer, Teresa Lohrman

Parish Prayer List—Rosemarie Goonewardene, Sue Eichhorn, Don Nead, Janet Huber, Ginny Hull, Pam Ogorzaly, Barbara Hess, Paul Lawson, Pequita Behrndt, 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, Sara & Juni, 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 Gary, Douglas Campbell, Gary, and 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 Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, and St. John's, Bedford.

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

600 Ferry Street · Lafayette, IN 47901-1142 · 765.742.4079

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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.

