

Proclamation of the Word of God

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

Voluntary

Chorale Prelude on "Valet will ich dir geben"
"Blest be the King whose coming"

J. S. Bach

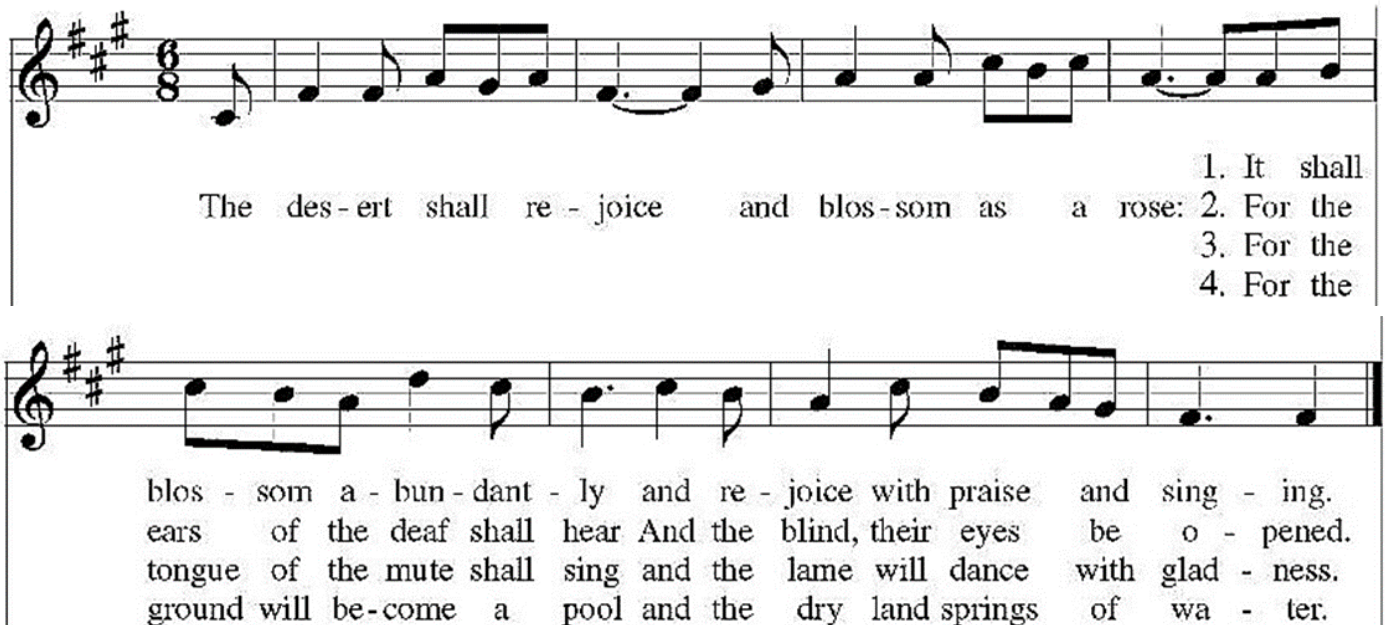
Blessed are you, holy and living One.

You come to your people and set them free. Amen.

Hymn

The Desert Shall Rejoice

(verse 1)



1. It shall
The des - ert shall re - joice and blos - som as a rose: 2. For the
3. For the
4. For the

blos - som a - bun - dant - ly and re - joice with praise and sing - ing.
ears of the deaf shall hear And the blind, their eyes be o - pened.
tongue of the mute shall sing and the lame will dance with glad - ness.
ground will be - come a pool and the dry land springs of wa - ter.

5. The desert shall rejoice
and blossom as a rose:
as the ransomed return to God
and come singing back to Zion.

6. The desert shall rejoice
and blossom as a rose:
unto Zion we come with joy,
for our God has come to save us.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Listen. Hear the good news: God's promised Messiah is coming. He brings good news for the poor and oppressed. He will bind up broken hearts. He will proclaim release to those who are held captive.

We light the third Advent Candle as a sign of joy — a testimony to the Light of God coming into our world that will shatter the darkness and bring healing to all who suffer and mourn.

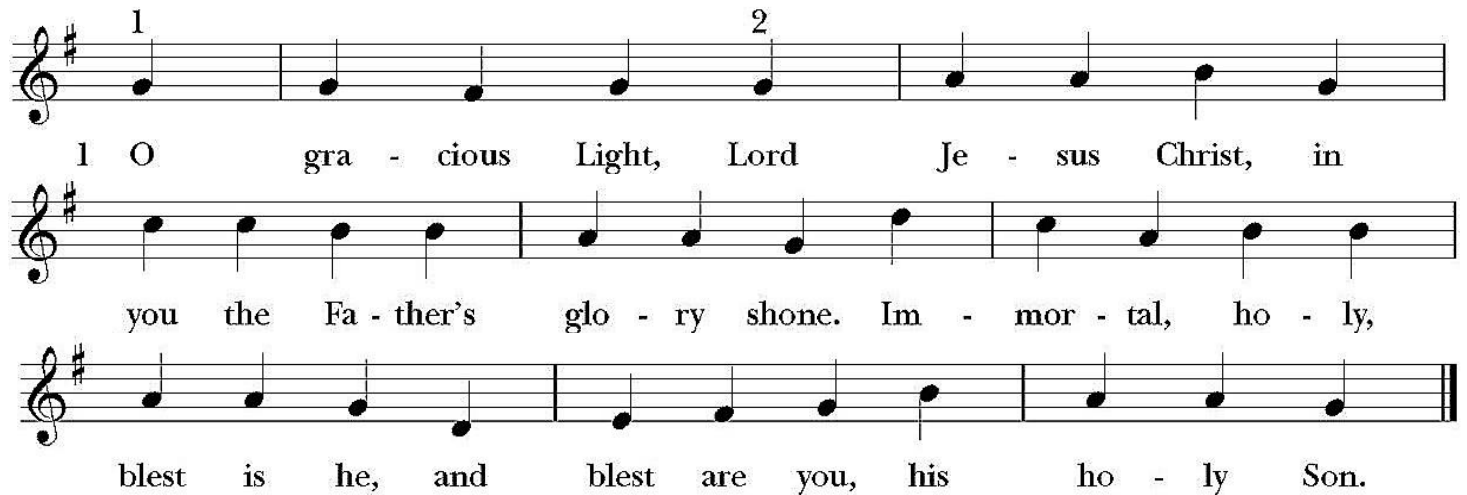
Come, LORD Jesus.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. Amen.

Hymn 25

(vs 1 & 3)

O Gracious Light



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in
you the Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.

Verse 3

Worthy are you of endless praise,
O Son of God, Life-giving Lord;
wherefore you are through all the earth
and in the highest heaven adored.

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.*

The Lessons

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

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.

Psalm 126

*When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.*

*Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.*

*Then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."*

*The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.*

*Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negev.*

*Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.*

*Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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.

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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.

Affirmation of Faith for Advent

We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ—

God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn—

who emerges as the herald of hope,

God's laughter in the face of despair.

*Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives, and is leading the way
to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth
as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt,
degrading and deceitful.*

We believe in the coming reign of God.

*Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus, and will be consummated
in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven, when all who have passed through the
world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and
gathered into the joyous fulfilment of God's desire.*

For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray:

Come, LORD Jesus, Come!

Written by Nathan Nettleton

Prayers of the People

The presider gives an invitation to prayer, after which the following petitions are made.

O God of peace, you have called your people to rejoice always and to pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances: Sanctify your Church and its people that our spirit and soul and body may be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our LORD Jesus Christ.

God has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

God of justice and mercy, you love justice and hate wrongdoing: Guide our leaders and all in authority, that they may bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, repair the ruined cities and cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

God has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

God of compassion, look upon the needs of the world: Proclaim the year of your favor, and clothe your children with the garments of salvation and the robe of righteousness.

God has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

God of grace, be among us in this community that we may be a people whom you have sanctified to testify to the light and to become oaks of righteousness.

God has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

Receive our prayers for those for whom we pray in intercession, especially: Ru, Christine & Paul, Dave, Sue, Allen, Richard, Sue, Frank, Garrett, Joy, Mollie, Ruth, Joann, Laura, Carol, Ann, Catherine, Marie, Mary, Anne, Robert, Bonnie, Faith, Brendan, Pam, Josh & Jessica & Junie & Emmie, Ruth, Chip, Susan, and Barbara.

Silence

Hear our gratitude as we offer our thanksgiving, especially for those on the front lines during this pandemic; Margaret Atkins, Emily Brown, Julie Burd, Karin Fuchs, Amanda Glidden, Jesse Goodrich, Justin Laird, Vince LaMonaca, Maria Lopez, Tim McCarthy, Leezle Miller, Kristen Mims, Morgan Mims, Michelle Mumford, Elizabeth Muth, Maryann Phinney, Gary Rothman, Sandy & Omid Rowshan, Kim Sager, Robert Saint-Vil, Bonnie Schroeder, Jacob Schroeder, Matthew Simpson, Rich Tarbous, Steven Tarbous, Gabriella Tortorello, Heidi Turpen, Angelique Umphlett, Michael Umphlett, Trey Wilson, Vivian Yeh.

Comfort all who mourn, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit, as we remember before you those who have died.

God has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

A concluding collect is said.

Anthem

“Rejoice in the Lord”

anon.

Prayer for Communion in the Spirit

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the The Holy One.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give you thanks and praise, Holy God, for you have clothed us with the garments of salvation, and covered us with the robe of righteousness. In baptism you forgive our sins, part the waters of our liberation and bring us to the safe shore of everlasting life. In faithfulness you keep our spirit and soul and body sound and blameless until the coming of your Son Jesus Christ. And so we greatly rejoice and exult with our whole being in the company of angels and archangels of heaven, joining the unending hymn.

**Holy, holy holy LORD, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

Hosanna in the highest.

God of justice, send your Spirit upon your people in their wilderness. Bring good news to the oppressed and all who live with the chains of debt. Bind up the brokenhearted and any who languish in the slavery of another's scheming or the exile of their own folly. Proclaim liberty to the captives and those who live under the shadow of fear at home, at work, or in their neighborhood. Announce release to the prisoners and to all who are incarcerated by their own body or the travails of their own mind. Usher in the year of your favor and deliver your people from sin and guilt and addiction and shame. Provide for those who mourn that they may have a garland instead of ashes, and the oil of gladness instead of mourning. Show us your face, everlasting God. **Amen.**

Let us pray in the words our Savior Christ has taught us

***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.***

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.***

Hymn 72

Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes

Richmond

Verse 1

Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

Verse 2

He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

Verse 3

He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure;
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

Verse 4

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved Name.

The Officiant then concludes with the following

Seek the welfare of the place to which you are sent, and pray to the LORD on its behalf; for in its welfare will you find your peace. **Amen.** *Jeremiah 29:7*

Let us bless the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

Voluntary

Chorale Prelude on “Richmond”

Healey Willan

Announcements

Participants in today’s worship

The Rev. Richard Vinson, Officiant
The Rev. Dr. Virginia Sheay, Assisting Priest
Timothy Harrell, Organist/Choirmaster
Dennis Walsh and Tom Vieradiaz, Lectors

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