

St. Stanislaus Cathedral

The First Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church

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Ms. Rebecca Elfman, Director of Music & Organist

Mrs. Mary Ann Stankowski, Bell Choir Director

December 8, 2024 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE *Prelude in e minor*

Johann Pachelbel

Prayer Before Holy Mass (please rise)

My dear God and loving Father, as I participate in this Holy Mass, may Jesus fill me with His holy grace when I open my heart to Him in sincere prayer. May the sacraments I will receive, the prayers that I will say and the hymns that I will sing bring me closer to Jesus and help me to be more like Him in all that I say and do. May the Holy Communion that I will receive give me strength, so that I may share faith, hope and love with the people I will meet. Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

C: "Make ready the way of the Lord. Clear Him a straight path." (Luke 3:4)

C: Our help is in the name of the Lord. **R: Who made heaven and earth.**

C: Lord hear our prayer. **R: And let our cry come to you.**

C: The Lord be with you. **R: And also with you.**

READER: Advent is a time of preparation: preparation for the Christmas holiday in all of our lives, but more importantly, preparation for the coming Christ Child. In this Second Week of Advent, as we light today the Candle of the Preparation, stir up our hearts, O God, to prepare the path of your only Son, Jesus. "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign;

the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son, you shall name him Emmanuel (Light the second purple candle)

C: Almighty and loving God, You Who dwell within our hearts at every waking moment, keep us always close to You. Help us to recognize and appreciate the gifts and talents You have given us. Keep our hearts and minds ever alert to Your peaceful and loving touch in every prayer, in every act of worship, as we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ, your Son, who shall come to judge the living and the dead, forever and ever. **R: Amen.**

OPENING HYMN 21 *On Jordan's Bank* (1, 2, 5)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of Kings.

Then cleansed be ev'ry breast from sin; make straight the way of God within,
And let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty Guest may come.

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee, whose advent doth Thy people free;
Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Ghost for evermore.

CONFITEOR - *Traditional Mass* Page 16 ~ *Contemporary Mass* Page 66

INTROIT

Malachi 3:1

C: Lo, I am sending My messenger to prepare the way before Me; and suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord Whom you seek, **R: And the messenger of the covenant Whom you desire, yes, He is coming, says the Lord of hosts.** C: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. **R: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

KYRIE

O'Connor

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to be the herald of Your kingdom and the forerunner of Your Son. Grant that we may be prepared for the day when the glory of the Lord will be revealed to all people. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You, and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **R. Amen.**

~ LITURGY OF THE WORD ~

FIRST LESSON

Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.

Up, Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.

This is the Word of the Lord. **R. Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL - *Traditional Mass*

John 1:6-8

C: A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through Him. **R: He was not the light but came to testify to the light.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - *Contemporary Mass*

Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6



R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

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R. (3) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion,
we were like men dreaming.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad indeed.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the torrents in the southern desert.

Those who sow in tears
shall reap rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Although they go forth weeping,
carrying the seed to be sown,
They shall come back rejoicing,
carrying their sheaves.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Brothers and sisters: I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now.

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

This is the Word of the Lord. **R. Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA

1 Thessalonians 3:12a, 13b

arr. Rebecca Elfman

Choir or cantor,
then all: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

C: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **R: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.** C: Show us, Lord, Your love; grant us Your salvation. **R: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

This is the gospel of the Lord. **R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT *An Advent Prayer*

West/Havergal

Holy Spirit, make me see all His coming means for me;
Take the gifts of Christ, I pray; show them to my heart today. Amen.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL - *Contemporary Mass*

R: Lord hear our prayer.

~ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ~

OFFERTORY VERSE

Luke 1:76

And you child, will be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways.

OFFERTORY HYMN (8:00) *Blest Be the God of Israel*

FOREST GREEN

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Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
And raises up new hope for us, a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm,
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.

With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,
The oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all,
That we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,
In holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.

My child, as prophet of the Lord, you will prepare the way,
To tell God's people they are saved from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth and never cease,
To drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (9:30) *Every Valley*

Patty Drennan

Every valley shall be exalted, every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight, and the rough places plain; and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed; and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it. Amen.

The Cathedral Chorale

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord our God, through this oblation help us to prepare for the coming of Your Son. May He find us waiting and eager in joyful prayer. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **R. Amen.**

PREFACE

SANCTUS

Sobiechowski

~ CANON ~

THE LORDS PRAYER

AGNUS DEI

Alstott

POST-COMMUNION HYMN 27 *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* (1, 2, 4)

Comfort, comfort ye My people, Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, Mourning under sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, And her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day, Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness into ever-springing gladness.

Make ye straight what long was crooked. Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble As befits His holy reign,
For the glory of the Lord Now on earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token That His word is never broken.

COMMUNION VERSE

Baruch 5:5; 4:36b

Up, Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights; look to the east and behold the joy that comes to you from God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty Father, through the merits of this Holy Communion, help us to show our gratitude for Your precious gift, Jesus Christ, to think more of others than of ourselves, and to seek Your presence more deeply. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **R. Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING (please kneel)

DISMISSAL

C: Let us bless the Lord! **R: Thanks be to God.**

Prayer After Holy Mass (please remain kneeling)

I am grateful to You, Lord, that I was able to come to church and participate in the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. I thank You for receiving Your gracious pardon, Your instruction and teaching through Your Word, and Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion. May Your sacraments continue to strengthen and help me to be faithful to You and Your Church. Help me to face all the challenges of life on my journey to Your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 29 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the world Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

POSTLUDE *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

setting, Egil Hovland