

**CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY  
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 13, 2020**



*Angel—Jorge Cocco Santangelo*

**PROCESSIONAL**

*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

Hymn 640

<sup>1</sup> Watchman, tell us of the night,  
what its signs of promise are.  
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height,  
see that glory-beaming star.  
Watchman, does its beauteous ray  
aught of joy or hope foretell?  
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,  
promised day of Israel.

<sup>2</sup> Watchman, tell us of the night;  
higher yet that star ascends.  
Traveler, blessedness and light,  
peace and truth its course portends.  
Watchman, will its beams alone  
gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Traveler, ages are its own;  
see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

<sup>3</sup> Watchman, tell us of the night,  
for the morning seems to dawn.  
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,  
doubt and terror are withdrawn.  
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease;  
hie thee to thy quiet home.  
Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace,  
lo! the Son of God is come!

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.  
**People** **His mercy endureth forever.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**All Sing** Hymn S-91  
**Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**  
**Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
**Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
**People** **And with thy spirit.**  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

### THE FIRST LESSON

*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.

*Lector*           The Word of the Lord.  
**People**           **Thanks be to God.**

**THE CANTICLE**

*Magnificat*

Hymn S-185

He that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.  
My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud  
in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.  
He that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.  
He that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.

**THE EPISTLE**

*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.

*Lector*           The Word of the Lord.  
**People**           **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL HYMN***What is the Crying at Jordan*

Hymn 69

<sup>1</sup> What is the crying at Jordan?  
Who hears, O God, the prophecy?  
Dark is the season, dark our hearts  
and shut to mystery.

<sup>2</sup> Who then shall stir in this darkness,  
prepare for joy in the winter night?  
Mortal in darkness we lie down,  
blind-hearted seeing no light.

<sup>3</sup> Lord, give us grace to awake us,  
to see the branch that begins to bloom;  
in great humility is hid  
all heaven in a little room.

<sup>4</sup> Now comes the day of salvation,  
in joy and terror the Word is born!  
God gives himself into our lives;  
O let salvation dawn!

**THE GOSPEL***John 1:6-8,19-28**Celebrant*  
**People**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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.

*Celebrant*  
**People**The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to thee, O Christ.****SERMON**

Fr. Stace Tafoya

**THE NICENE CREED****All****I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor \_\_\_\_\_ and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants Departed this life in thy faith and fear especially \_\_\_\_\_, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of \_\_\_\_\_ and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only mediator and advocate.  
**Amen.**

*Celebrant* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Silence*

**All** **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**People** **And with thy spirit.**

**OFFERTORY**

*The Great Forerunner of the Morn*

Hymn 272

<sup>1</sup> The great forerunner of the morn,  
The herald of the Word, is born;  
And faithful hearts shall never fail  
With thanks and praise his light to hail.

<sup>2</sup> With heavenly message Gabriel came,  
That John should be that herald's name,  
And with prophetic utterance told  
His actions great and manifold.

<sup>3</sup> John, still unborn, yet gave aright  
His witness to the coming Light;  
And Christ, the Sun of all the earth,  
Fulfilled that witness at his birth.

<sup>4</sup> His mighty deeds exalt his fame  
To greater than a prophet's name;  
Of woman born shall never be  
A greater prophet than was he.

<sup>5</sup> To God the Father, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
praise, honor, might, and glory be  
from age to age eternally.

**All Sing** **Praise God from whom all blessings flow**  
**Praise Him, all creatures here below**  
**Praise Him above the Heavenly host**  
**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost**

Doxology

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
**People** **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
**People** **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People** **It is meet and right so to do.**

*Celebrant* It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**All Sing** **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:**  
**Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.**  
**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Hymn S-114

*Celebrant* All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel

command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.** Hymn S-147

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

**All** **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.**

**All Sing** Hymn S-158

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.**

*Celebrant* We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. **Amen.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus*

Hymn 268

<sup>1</sup> Ye who claim the faith of Jesus,  
Sing the wonders that were done  
When the love of God the Father  
over sin the victory won,  
When he made the Virgin Mary  
Mother of his only Son.

<sup>2</sup> Blessed were the chosen people  
Out of whom the Lord did come;  
Blessed was the land of promise  
Fashioned for his earthly home;  
But more blessed far the mother,  
She who bare him in her womb.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore let all faithful people  
Sing the honor of her name;  
Let the Church, in her foreshadowed,  
Part in her thanksgiving claim;  
What Christ's mother sang in gladness  
Let Christ's people sing the same.

<sup>4</sup> "Magnify, my soul, God's greatness;  
In my Savior I rejoice;  
All the ages call me blessed,  
In his praise I lift my voice;  
God has cast down all the mighty,  
And the lowly are his choice."

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**All** **Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

*Celebrant* The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**RECESSIONAL**

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

Hymn 444

<sup>1</sup> Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free;  
he visits and redeems us, he grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill his promise and bring his people peace.

<sup>2</sup> He from the house of David a child of grace has given;  
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.  
Before him goes his herald, forerunner in the way,  
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of Day.

<sup>3</sup> On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,  
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.  
He guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.  
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease.

