

# Choral Evensong for the Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020  
4:30 p.m.

*Streamed via YouTube Live*

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church  
Baltimore, Maryland



*"John the Baptist appeared in the desert," by Father Richard Lonsdale ©2000. Reproduced with permission.*

As early as Old Testament times, the people of God regularly gathered in the synagogue at given hours of the day and night. By marking certain hours with prayer, praise, and reading of scripture, God's work in creation was honored. This practice was adopted by the Christian church in New Testament times. By the time of the English reformation in the 1500s, the offices of Vespers (evening prayer) and Compline (night prayer) were combined and simplified into a single service. When sung, this service is called Evensong.

Just like daily prayer offices with their history of thousands of years, the service of Choral Evensong marks a moment in a continuing cycle of constant prayer and praise by the people of God. The Anglican tradition has continued the practice of Choral Evensong almost without interruption since its creation by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer of Canterbury in 1549.

Two canticles (biblical songs) form the unchanging core of the service, the *Magnificat* (the Song of Mary, Luke 1:46-55), and the *Nunc Dimittis* (the Song of Simeon, Luke 2:29-32). While the prayers are largely sung by the cantor and choir, they are offered for the worshipper to silently join. Hymns are also an important part of the service, and you are encouraged to heartily join in singing from wherever you are!

Parts of the liturgy include references to:  
The *Book of Common Prayer* (view online at <https://www.bcponline.org>, beginning on p. 115),  
and *The Hymnal* 1982

## Preparation

Organ prelude

Improvisation on "Creator of the stars of night"

## The Invitatory and Psalter

Opening sentence

Book of Common Prayer, page 115

The Preces, sung by cantor and choir, all standing  
(text: Book of Common Prayer, page 63)

plainchant

Hymn, all invited to stand

Creator of the stars of night


Hymnal 60

Stanzas 1-2: all sing

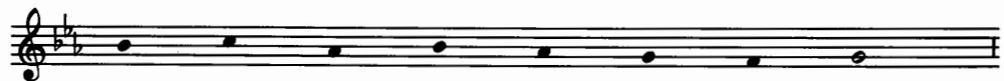
Stanza 3: trebles

Stanza 4: low voices

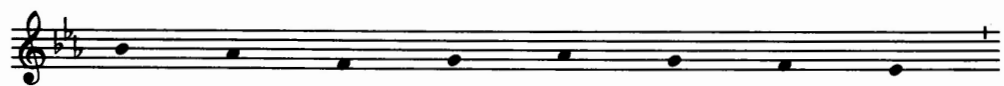
Stanzas 5-6: all sing




1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,  
2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse  
3 When this old world drew on toward night,  
4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now  
5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,  
\*6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,  
2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,  
4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;  
6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,  
2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free  
3 not as a mon - arch, but the child  
4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



1 we pray you hear us when we call.  
2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.  
3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.  
4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.  
5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: Latin, 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.  
Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4

LM

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his  
benefits—  
who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your  
diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you  
with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that  
your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are  
oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the  
people of Israel.  
The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and  
abounding in steadfast love.  
He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger  
forever.  
He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor  
repay us according to our iniquities.*

*For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is  
his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our  
transgressions from us.  
As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord  
has compassion for those who fear him.  
Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who  
do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word.  
Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his  
will.  
Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his  
dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and  
to the Holy Ghost  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever  
shall be, world without end. Amen.*

## The Lessons

### The First Lesson, *seated*

Isaiah 13:6-13

Wail, for the day of the Lord is near;  
it will come like destruction from the Almighty!  
Therefore all hands will be feeble,  
and every human heart will melt,  
and they will be dismayed.  
Pangs and agony will seize them;  
they will be in anguish like a woman in labor.  
They will look aghast at one another;  
their faces will be aflame.  
See, the day of the Lord comes,  
cruel, with wrath and fierce anger,  
to make the earth a desolation,  
and to destroy its sinners from it.

For the stars of the heavens and their constellations  
will not give their light;  
the sun will be dark at its rising,  
and the moon will not shed its light.  
I will punish the world for its evil,  
and the wicked for their iniquity;  
I will put an end to the pride of the arrogant,  
and lay low the insolence of tyrants.  
I will make mortals more rare than fine gold,  
and humans than the gold of Ophir.  
Therefore I will make the heavens tremble,  
and the earth will be shaken out of its place,  
at the wrath of the Lord of hosts  
in the day of his fierce anger.

*After the reading, all reply, Thanks be to God.*

Magnificat, *sung by the virtual choir, all invited to stand*  
(text: after the Song of Mary, Luke 1:46-55)

Tune: Woodlands

### The Second Lesson, *seated*

John 3:22-30

After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he spent some time there with them and baptized. John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim because water was abundant there; and people kept coming and were being baptized—John, of course, had not yet been thrown into prison. Now a discussion about purification arose between John's disciples and a Jew. They came to John and said to him, Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him. John answered, No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him. He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.

*After the reading, all reply, Thanks be to God.*

Nunc Dimittis, *sung by the virtual choir, all invited to stand*  
(text: after the Song of Simeon, Luke 2:29-32)

Tune: Song I

The Apostles' Creed, *chanted by all, standing*

Book of Common Prayer, page 120

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
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.

## The Prayers

The Salutation

Book of Common Prayer, page 121

The Lord's Prayer, *chanted by all*

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.

The Suffrages, *chanted by cantor and choir, kneeling or seated*

plainchant

The Collects, *chanted by cantor and choir*

Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent  
Collect for Aid against Perils  
Collect for Mission

Book of Common Prayer, Page 212

Page 123

Page 124

Hymn, *all invited to stand*

*Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the next four lines. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves. The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some rests. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4.

Come, thou long - ex - pec - ted Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
Born thy peo - ple to de - li - ver, born a child, and yet a king,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient me - rit raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: *Cross of Jesus*, John Stainer (1840-1901)

Welcome, *seated*

The Rev. Florence L. Ledyard, Rector

Offertory anthem, *sung by the virtual choir*

*Jesus Christ, the apple tree*

Emily Poston  
(1905-1987)

The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit and always green;  
The trees of nature fruitless be,  
Compared with Christ the Apple Tree.

His beauty doth all things excel,  
By faith I know but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see,  
In Jesus Christ the Apple Tree.

For happiness I long have sought,  
And pleasure dearly I have bought;  
I missed of all but now I see  
'Tis found in Christ the Apple Tree.

I'm weary with my former toil -  
Here I will sit and rest awhile,  
Under the shadow I will be,  
Of Jesus Christ the Apple Tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the Apple Tree.

*Anonymous, 18th century English poem*

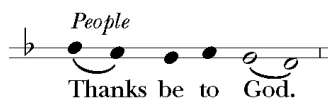
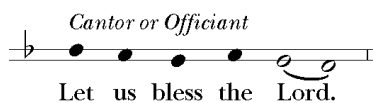
Closing Prayers

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.

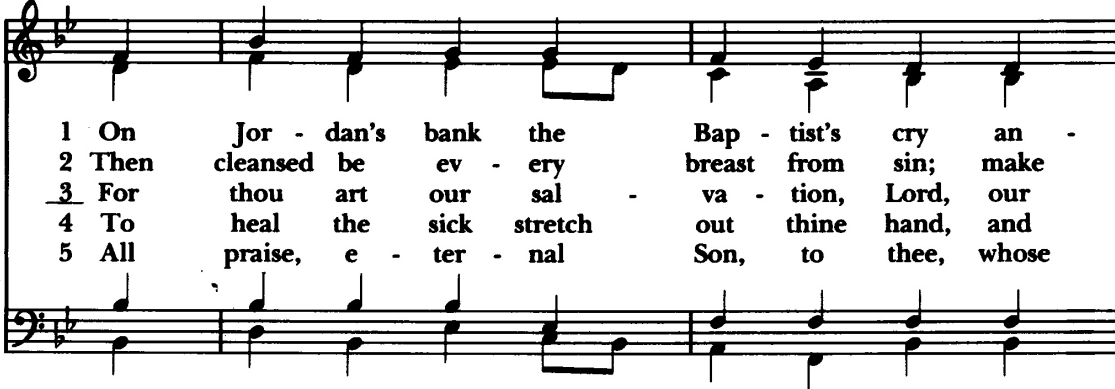
**Amen.**

*St. Chrysostom*

Blessing



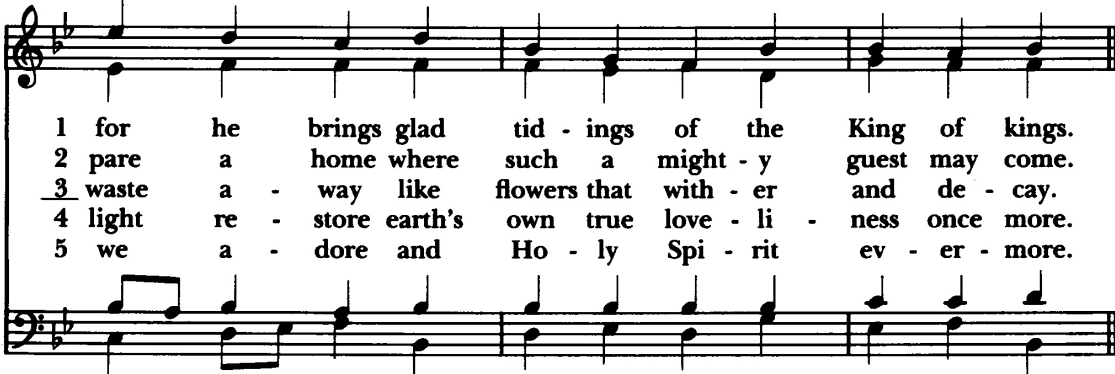
*Service concludes with the closing hymn, next page.*



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make  
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and  
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose



1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -  
 3 ref - uge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we  
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther



1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.  
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944),  
 after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.

Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, 1690;  
 harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

LM



Please consider contributing as you are able to our 'virtual offering plate'. This will help enable us to produce more musical offerings in the future, as well as support our parish outreach fund.

Contributions may be made by check (sent to the church address below) or [online](#).

Your support is deeply appreciated.

*The singers are members and friends of the St. Bartholomew Choir*

Dr. Ted Davis, Organist and Choirmaster

Soprano

Tammy Bianchi  
Corinne Bowmaker  
Louisa Davis  
Susan Davis  
Leah B. Kulp  
Leigh Snowden

Alto

Patricia Alt  
Cathy Brookman  
Debbie McClellan  
Diane Mountain

Tenor

Christine Bassett-Jellema  
Michael Mountain

Bass

Alan Lane  
David McClellan  
Michael Mountain

Officiant

The Rev. Florence L. Ledyard  
*Rector, St. Bartholomew's Church*

Readers

Robert Prince  
Cynthia Wagner

Live stream technology manager Michael Mountain

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