



Bethany

December 13, 2024,

Diocese of Southern Virginia

The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes, Bishop

The Rev. Todd DeLaney, Celebrant

The Rev. Dana VanVliet-Pullin, Deacon

Year C



PLEASE TURN CELL PHONE OFF OR MUTE

(please stand)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH 3<sup>rd</sup> WEEKEND



Third Candle - The Candle of Love

John The Baptist

**Celebrant:** May your hearts be filled with God's love towards all people as you consider the life of sacrifice and encouragement of John the Baptist.

*All: Thanks be to God*

**Advent Reader :** Last Two weekends we the lit the Candles of Hope and Peace.

*(A person now lights the Candles of Hope, and Peace.)*

**Advent Reader:** Today is the Third weekend of Advent and we soon light the Candle of Love and remember John the Baptist.

*Matthew Chapter 3*

*In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."'*

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth as a burning and shining light. May we your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming kingdom, Jesus our Savior and King of the ages. Blessed be God for ever.

*(A person now lights the pink candle)*

**Celebrant:** Let us pray:

*All: Lord Jesus, your servant John the Baptist called people to prepare for your coming by caring for one another. Give us willing hearts to reach out to all people in need with your love and compassion. Amen.*

*(all may be seated)*

MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTIONS (appx 2 mins)

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**CALLED TO GATHER**

**The Collect of the Day**

**BCP- 222**

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.*

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

**The First Song of Isaiah** *Ecce Deus*

*Isaiah 12:2-6 BCP-86*

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*

*I will trust in him and not be afraid.*

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
*and he will be my Savior.*

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
*from the springs of salvation.*

And on that day you shall say, \*

*Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;*

Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*

*see that they remember that his Name is exalted.*

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
*and this is known in all the world.*

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*

*for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.*

*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.*



## **Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## **Gospel Reading Luke 3:7-18** (please stand)

### *Glory to You Lord Christ*

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'"

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

### *Praise to you Lord Christ*



### *Reflections, Questions, or Homily*

*Fr. Todd*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM III**  
**The Leader and People pray responsively**

**Bert**

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church.

*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you.  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for Sean our presiding Bishop, Susan our Bishop, Todd our Celebrant, Dana our Deacon, Jim, Andy and Karen, our Wardens, and all bishops, priests, and deacons;

*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world.

*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake.

*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer Body, Mind, and Spirit: Norma, Megan, Irene, Irene K, Ann E, Shawn, Tina, Randy, Joan Winters.

For those feeling alone and/or depressed For those traveling For those not mentioned here that are known to you Lord: and protect those from any grief or trouble;.

*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy.

*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

(The People may add their own petitions)

**Silence**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

**THE PEACE**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, PRAYER B**

**BCP-372**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BCP-364**

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

**BCP-364**

**POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER**

**BCP-365**

**BLESSING**

***GRACE FOR THE FOOD WE ARE ABOUT TO PARTAKE***