

THE SERMON The Rev. Fr. Copeland D. Johnston
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The Prayers of the People **388**
The Peace and Announcements

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY
380 Doxology (vs. 3)
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 The Breaking of the Bread
S154 *Fraction Anthem* David Hurd
POST COMMUNION PRAYER **366**
65 *Prepare the way, O Zion*
Remain for the Annual Meeting

Serving Today:
Celebrant: *The Rev. Fr. Copeland D. Johnston*
Organist: *Sylvia Sutter*
Acolytes: *Jimmy Latham*
Eucharistic Minister: *Mickey Cochran*
Lector: *Lisa Conner*
Ushers: *Jan & Mickey Cochran*
Altar Guild: *Lou Mallard*
Coffee Hour: *Susan Stewart & Kathy Sutter*
Flower Guild: *Susan Tankard*

This week in your prayers, please remember:

Healing & Guidance: Ivan McRoy, Muffy Bowman, Rosemary Turnage, Lou Batton (Mark Batton's mother, Sylvia Sutter's sister), Alethia Anderson, Donald Michaud, Bob Cruse, Bishop Carl Wright, Bishop David O'Connell, Olivia Hill, Jayne Spangler, Jason Alford, Alan Daughtry, Katherine Mitchell, Sallie Sawyer, The Wester family, David Smith (Tim Smith's brother), Joe Buziak, Victoria Messina, John Denton, Robbie Moulton, Victoria Messina, Jack & Kathryn Brake, Gail Shaull, Hubert Yeatman, Brooke Fritz

Remember the Caregivers:

Military: Bradley Craig Ward, Chris Raducha, Adam Raducha, Hayden Tankard, Nathaniel Bowen, Frank Yenny (Jack & Kathryn Brake's grandson), McCauley Griffin (Annie Griffin's grandson), Sloan Smith (Robert Tankard's niece), Walker Brown (Pat & Sue Brown's grandson), Lonnie Carraway (Stephanie & Ken Reynold's son-in-law)

Birthdays: Anne Wester (9th), Ivan McRoy (11th)

PLEASE REMEMBER ST. THOMAS IN YOUR WILL

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St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Bath, North Carolina

Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist

December 8, 2024, 9 AM



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WELCOME

LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* 13th Century Plainsong
(Divinum Mysterium) Arr. by Mary Ellen Kerrick

67 *Comfort, comfort ye my people*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Priest: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now
and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity 355

S278 *Gloria*

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Let us pray.

The Collect For The Day

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Canticle 16

The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

Luke 1: 68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most
High, *

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow
of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

The Second Lesson: Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is

my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

75 *There's a voice in the wilderness calling*

The Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around 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, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"