

THE KALENDAR

S. Stephen's Church
in Providence

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6 DECEMBER 2020

SUNG MASS

10:00 AM

Messe Basse

Gabriel Fauré (1845 – 1924)

NOTE: Please turn all cell phones, pagers, and similar devices off, or to silent mode, while you are in church.

THE OPENING RITE

ORGAN VOLUNTARY – *Veni Redemptor Gentium* *Thomas Tallis (1505 – 1585)*
Master Tallis' Testament *Herbert Howells (1892 – 1983)*

AN ADVENT PROSE – *Drop down ye heavens from above* *Rorate Caeli*



Drop down__ ye hea - vens from__ a - bove,__



and let the skies pour__ down right - eous - ness.

Cantor Drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.

People **Drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

Choir Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

People **Drop down ye heavens...**

Choir We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away: thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

People **Drop down ye heavens...**

Choir Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know me and believe me, I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

People **Drop down ye heavens...**

Choir Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry: I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee, For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

People **Drop down ye heavens...**

INTROIT – *Populus Sion (Please remain standing)*

Tone VII

O people of Sion, behold the Lord is nigh at hand to redeem the nations: and in the gladness of your heart the Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard. *Ps.* Hear, O Thou Shepherd of Israel: thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep. Glory be... O people of Sion...

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

KYRIE ELEISON

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY (*Second Sunday of Advent*)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent thy 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 40: 1-11 (Please be seated)*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a 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."

A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people is grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL – *Psalm 85:7-13 Benedixisti, Domine*

Tone IV

7 Shew us thy mercy, O Lord : and grant us thy salvation.

8 I will hearken what the Lord God will say concerning me : for he shall speak peace unto his people, and to his saints, that they turn not again.

9 For his salvation is nigh them that fear him : that glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth are met together : righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall flourish out of the earth : and righteousness hath looked down from heaven.

12 Yea, the Lord shall shew loving-kindness : and our land shall give her increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him : and he shall direct his going in the way.

EPISTLE READING – 2 Peter 3:8 – 15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be kindled and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire! But according to his promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you wait for these, be zealous to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the forbearance of our Lord as salvation.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA – *Laetatus Sum (Please stand)*

Tone VI

Alleluia. *V.* I was glad when they said unto me: we will go into the house of the Lord. Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL – *Mark 1:1-8*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight—”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the

country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

SERMON

Fr. Benjamin

THE NICENE CREED

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.

*(Genuflect or
bow)*

**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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Please remain standing)*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of thy coming, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Here and after every petition the people respond

Lord, have mercy.

For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Nicholas, our own Bishop; for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to thee, O Lord.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to thee, O Lord.

For those in positions of public trust, especially the President, the President-Elect, the Courts, and Legislatures, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to thee, O Lord.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to thee, O Lord.

For this congregation (for those who are present, and for those who are absent), that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth thy glory in all that we do, we pray to thee, O Lord.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to thee, O Lord.

For all who have ✠ died in the communion of thy Church, and those whose faith is known to thee alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, Blessed John the Baptist, Blessed Stephen, our Patron, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

Celebrant & People, all kneeling

Almighty God, **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

The Priest stands and says

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.**

THE PEACE (*All stand*)

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY ANTIPHON – *Deus tu Convertens*

Tone II

Wilt thou not turn again, O God, and quicken us; that thy people may rejoice in thee: shew us thy mercy, O Lord; and grant us thy salvation.

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY – “Großer Herr und starker König”

J.S. Bach

from *Weihnachtsoratorium*, BWV 245

Großer Herr, o starker König,
Liebster Heiland, o wie wenig
Achtest du der Erden Pracht!

Der die ganze Welt erhält,
Ihre Pracht und Zier erschaffen,
Muß in harten Krippen schlafen.

*Great Lord, o powerful King,
dearest Savior, o how little
you care about the glories of the earth!*

*He who sustains the entire world,
who created its magnificence and beauty,
must sleep in a harsh manger.*

ORATE, FRATRES (*Please remain standing*)

Celebrant Pray, brothers and sisters, that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Father Almighty.

People **May the Lord receive this Sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit, and that of all his holy Church.**

SURSUM CORDA & PREFACE

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

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 thine 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,

SANCTUS ET BENEDICTUS

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Domine
Deus Sabaoth: Pleni sunt caeli et
terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.
✠ Benedictus qui venit in nomine
Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

*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.*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B *(Please kneel if you are able to do so)*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we give thanks unto thee for the goodness and love which thou hast revealed unto us in creation; in the calling of Israel as thine own people; in thy Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, thy Son Jesus Christ. For in the fulness of time thou didst send him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, thou hast delivered us from evil and made us worthy to stand before thee. In him, thou hast brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks unto thee, 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 COVENANT, 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."



Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer unto thee, O Father, this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, presenting unto thee from thy creation, O Lord of all, this bread and this cup.

We beseech thee, gracious Father, to send thy Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the New Covenant. Unite us to thy Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being ✠ sanctified by the Holy Spirit. At the last day, put all things in subjection under thy Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the ever Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed John the Baptist, Blessed Stephen our Patron, and all thy saints, we may enter into the everlasting heritage of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

✠ By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People and Celebrant

**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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
Miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi, Miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
Dona nobis pacem.

*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.*

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

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 our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE INVITATION – ECCE AGNUS DEI

Celebrant ✠ Behold the Lamb of God; behold him that taketh away the sins
of the world.

People **Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof:
but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON – *Jerusalem Surge*

Tone I

Jerusalem, haste thee, and stand on high: and behold the joy and gladness that cometh unto thee from God thy Saviour.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In union, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of thy Church, where thy blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to thee my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to thee. And since I cannot now receive thee sacramentally, I beseech thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to thee, and embrace thee with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from thee. Let me live and die in thy love. Amen.

Grant, O Lord Jesus Christ, that as the hem of thy garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch thy Body, so the soul of thy servant may be healed by like faith in thee, whom I cannot now sacramentally receive; through thy tender mercy, who livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost ever one God. Amen.

THE CLOSING RITE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (*Kneeling*)

Let us pray.

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.

ADVENT BLESSING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL (*Please stand*)

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY – *Voluntary in G*

William Walond (1719 – 1786)

Members of the Schola Cantorum:

Lori Harrison, *soprano*; Celia Russo, *mezzo-soprano*; Devon Russo, *baritone*

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S. STEPHEN'S CHURCH in Providence

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The Rev'd William Locke, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev'd Michael A. Pearson, *Assisting Priest*

The Rev'd Gary K. Sturni, *Assisting Priest*
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