

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SOLEMN PONTIFICAL HIGH MASS

*with the Conferring of the Sacraments
of Holy Baptism & Confirmation
& the Reception of New Members*



ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

in the heart of the historic Stockade District

The Right Reverend Jeremiah D. Williamson, D.D., *The Bishop of Albany*

The Reverend Thomas J. Pettigrew, M.DIV., *Rector of St. George's Church*

The Reverend Abigail Bee, B.A., *Parish Deacon*

Dr. Brian J. Taylor, AAGO, *Director of Music*



TODAY WE WELCOME Bishop Jeremiah Williamson, the Tenth Bishop of Albany, for his triennial parochial visitation to St. George's Church. Bishops in the Episcopal Church are required by canon law to visit each parish in diocese every three years. The visit of a bishop is a special event in the life of any parish. The bishops of the Church are the direct successors of the Apostles who were ordained, consecrated, and sent out by our Lord to preach the Gospel to the ends of the Earth. The Bishop is the chief priest and pastor in the Diocese, uniting the many parishes with one another and the wider Church. Today, the Bishop will celebrate the Holy Eucharist, Preach the Word of God, and Administer the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, as well as formally receive members from other denominations into the Episcopal Church.

Today's liturgy is a special form of the Mass in recognition of the presence of the Bishop. It begins with the Bishop knocking on the door of the church, formally requesting entrance to his parish. When he enters, he pauses for prayer, blesses the congregation with Holy Water, a reminder of our Baptism. He processes to the Altar, where he is ceremonially clothed in the vestments for Mass. The Bishop wears both the chasuble worn by priests at mass, and the dalmatic, worn by deacons, to signify the fullness of the ministry of the Church which the Bishop possesses. After vesting, the Bishop and altar party will offer the preparatory prayers, usually said by the ministers and choir in the Lady Chapel. The Bishop sits in a special chair, on the north, or Gospel Side, of the church. The chair is draped with a canopy, to signify it's special purpose during the liturgy as being for the Bishop.

Much of the Mass will be familiar to regular parishioners. But some parts, like the Blessing at the end of Mass, are a unique form, used only by bishops. It is customary to kneel to receive the blessing from the bishop at the end of Mass.

Ministers of Today's Liturgy

Celebrant & Preacher

The Rt. Reverend Jeremiah Williamson,
10th Bishop of the Diocese of Albany

Priest-Assistant:	The Reverend Thomas J. Pettigrew, <i>Rector</i>
Deacon:	The Reverend Abigail Bee, <i>Parish Deacon</i>
Subdeacon:	David Kennison
Master of Ceremonies:	Kevin Decker
Organist:	Dr. Brian J. Taylor
Cantor:	Joan Pearson
Thurifers:	Chris Henry, Paul Smigelski
Boat Boys:	Aiden Bassant, James Smigelski
Crucifers:	Eric Bassant, Ryan Smigelski
Acolytes:	J. J. Moran, Matthew Smigelski
Banners:	Mike Todt, Jeff Wengrovius
Icon:	James Moore, III
Vimps:	Daniel Miess, Daniel Sewdat
Greeters:	Jim Wingate, Ann Duff
Lector:	Jonathan Pearson
Counters:	Jeff Wengrovius, Alyssa de Paula
Altar Guild:	Wendy Madelone
Sacristans:	David & Anne Kennison

THE FLOWERS AT THE HIGH ALTAR are given to the Greater Glory of Almighty God by the Clergy, Churchwardens, and Vestry of Saint George's Church to mark Gaudete Sunday and the visit of our Diocesan Bishop, The Right Reverend Jerimiah D. Williamson, Tenth Bishop of Albany.

THE SOLEMN RECEPTION OF THE BISHOP OF ALBANY

Please stand when the Rector's Procession proceeds from the Sacristy to the West Doors of the Church.

The Bishop knocks on the West Doors of the Church with the Pastoral Staff. The doors are opened from within. The Bishop enters the church and kisses a crucifix presented to him by the Rector. The Bishop kneels for a moment of quiet prayer. He is then presented Holy Water and sprinkles himself, the Altar Party and the Congregation. As the procession moves to the Altar, the Choir sings the anthem "Ecce Sacerdos" to welcome the Bishop to his Parish Church.

As the Procession proceeds to the Altar, choir sings:

PROCESSIONAL ANTHEM: Ecce Sacerdos Magnus

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Ecce Sacerdos magnus,
Qui in diebus suis placuit Deo
Et inventus est justus

Behold a great priest,
who in his days pleased God
and was found righteous

THE VESTING OF THE BISHOP FOR MASS

The Bishop is vested in the Vestments proper for the Celebration of Mass.

*He exchanges the cope, a processional vestment, for the vestments proper to the Eucharist,
a pontifical dalmatic and chasuble.*

SOLEMN PONTIFICAL HIGH MASS

*WITH THE CONFERRING OF THE SACRAMENTS OF HOLY BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION
& THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS INTO THIS COMMUNION*

HYMN, HYMNAL 68, Sung by All

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Llangloffan

THE PREPARATIONS AT THE FOOT OF THE ALTAR

The Bishop and sacred ministers make their preparatory prayers at the Foot of the Altar.

THE 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**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE INTROIT

Sung by the cantor & choir

Rejoice ye in the Lord; and again I say rejoice; let your moderation be known unto all men; the Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing nor troubled; but in all things by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving; let your requests be made known unto God. Ps. Lord thou art become gracious unto thy land: thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob. Glory be.

THE 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.

THE TRISAGION, HYMNAL S-102

Sung by all

(people kneel)

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have Mercy upon us (x3)
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have Mercy upon us (x3)
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have Mercy upon us (x3)**

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

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.**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSON*Isaiah 35.1-10*

A READING from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

V. The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God**THE GRADUAL***Sung the choir*

Show thyself O Lord; thou that sittest upon the Cherubim: stir up thy strength and come. Hear O thou shepherd of Israel: thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

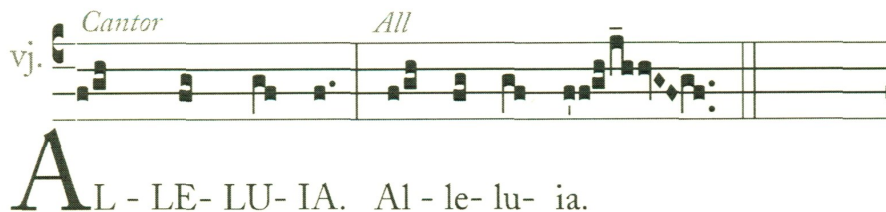
THE EPISTLE*James 5.7-10*

A READING from the Letter of James

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

V. The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God



Alleluia. **Alleluia.** Stir up thy strength O Lord: and come and help us. **Alleluia.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11.2-11

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW

R. Glory be to thee, O Lord.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

V. The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

The Right Reverend Jeremiah Williamson, D.D.
The Tenth Bishop of Albany

HYMN, HYMNAL 348, **Sung by All**

Lord, we have come at your own invitation

O quanta qualia

THE CONFERRING OF THE SACRAMENTS OF HOLY BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION & THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS INTO THIS COMMUNION

The Bishop: The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented

Parents & Godparents: I present **Quincy Jaquith Parseghian** to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Bishop: Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents & Godparents: I will, with God’s help.

The Bishop: Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents: I will, with God’s help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

**The Oil of Catechumens is imposed by Bishop saying:*

I anoint thee with the Oil of Salvation, in Christ Jesus our Lord, that thou mayest have eternal life.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION & RECEPTION

Bishop The other Candidates for Confirmation and Reception into this Communion will now be presented.

Rector Right Reverend Father, I present N.N. for the Sacrament of Confirmation; and I present N.N. to be received into this Communion.

The Bishop asks the Candidates

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate I do.

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Bishop then says these or similar words

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ
and renew our own baptismal covenant

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **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.**

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People **I will, with God's help.**

The Bishop then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for *these persons* who *are* to receive the Sacrament of new birth and for those this who *have* renewed *their* commitment to Christ.

Deacon Deliver *them*, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Deacon Open *their hearts* to your grace and truth.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Deacon Fill *them* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Deacon Keep *them* in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Deacon Teach *them* to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Deacon Send *them* into the world in witness to your love.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Deacon Bring *them* to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Bishop says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. *Amen.*

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Book of Common Prayer, Page 306

THE BAPTISM

As water is poured over the head of the candidate three times, the priest says
 Quincy, I Baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Then the Bishop then places a hand on the person's head,
 marking on the forehead the sign of the cross using Chrism and saying:*

Quincy, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

The Bishop: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised *him* to the new life of grace. Sustain *him*, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give *him* an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen.*

The Bishop: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

The Bishop and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

THE CONFERRING OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION & RECEPTION INTO THIS COMMUNION

The Bishop says to the congregation

Let us now pray for *these persons* who have renewed *their* commitment to Christ.

Silence may be kept.

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in *these* your *servants* the covenant you made with *them* at *their* Baptism. Send *them* forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before *them*; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

For Confirmation

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower *him* for your service; and sustain *him* all the days of *his* life. **Amen.**

For Reception

N., we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. *Amen.*

Then the Bishop says

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over *these* your *servants*; let your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*; and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that *they* may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace is then exchanged

Bishop The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rector

THE BISHOP'S GREETING TO THE PARISH

BLESSING OF GIFTS TO THE YWCA & SYCAMORE COLLABORATIVE

THE BLESSING OF AN ICON FOR USE IN THE CHURCH

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Sung by the Cantor & Choir

O Lord thou art become gracious unto thy land; thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob: thou hast forgiven the offense of thy people.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lo, in the time appointed

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

THE OFFERTORY, HYMN 59, sung by all

Hark! A Thrilling voice is sounding

Merton

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The first staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "The Lord be with you. And with thy spi - rit." The second staff is for the People, with the lyrics "Lift up your hearts. We lift them up un - to the Lord." The third staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God." The fourth staff is for the People, with the lyrics "It is meet and right so to do." The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and accidentals.

The Celebrant sings the Proper Preface

THE SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT, HYMNAL S-117 (McGregor)

Sung by All

**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.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

(people kneel)

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.

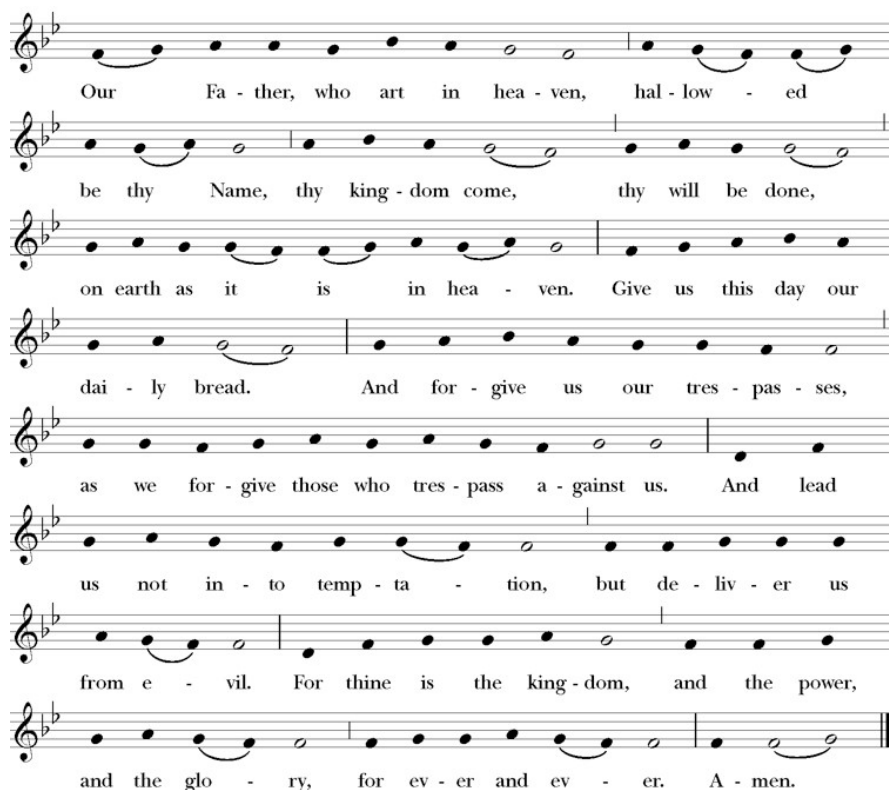
And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance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

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



THE FRACTION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE AGNUS DEI, HYMNAL S-157

Sung by All

(people kneel)

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.

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Said by All

(people kneel)

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 INVITATION

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.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

All baptized Christians may receive communion. If you wish to not receive, you are invited to come forward and cross your arms, indicating that you wish to receive a blessing. Gluten-free hosts are available.

THE COMMUNION SENTENCE

Sung by the Cantor & Choir

Say to them that are of a fearful heart: be strong, fear not; behold your God will come and save you.

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM *O heavenly Word, eternal Light.*

Plainsong, Mode 2

THE COMMUNION HYMN, HYMNAL 76, *sung by all* On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry *Westminster New*

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by All

(people kneel)

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.

THE PONTIFICAL BLESSING

Bishop Our help is in the name of the Lord
People **Who hath made heaven and earth.**

Bishop Blessed be the Name of the Lord.
People **From this time forth forevermore.**

Bishop The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you for ever.
People **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

RETIRING PROCESSION HYMN, HYMNAL 640, *sung by all* Watchmen, tell us of the night *Aberystwyth*

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:

The Sick and those in need: Jamie, Pat, Gabriella Rose, Katie, Chase, Pedro, Isabella, Dan Bornt, Dinorah Jimenez, Lula Fite, Nancy, Karen Perretta, Sharon A. Wemtle, Lorna, Mike T., Richard, Abigail, Suzanne, Ann, Josh, Vernon-Frederic Decker, Den, Sherrie, Lynn Paska, Larry, Robbie, Aubrey, Tamara, Sean, Mtr. Lisa Schoonmaker, Anne, Fred, Anna, James, Suzie

The prayer list will be reset every 3 months. Did we miss an important date for our birthday and faithful departed intentions? If you would like a name included on the prayer list or on the annual rota of intentions, send an email to rector@stgeorgesschenectady.org

The Departed: Connelly Todt (15), Charles Schermehorn (16), Barbara Mayersohn (18), Helen Laylock, Maude Pompilio (20)

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 14 — 10:00 a.m. — Solemn Pontifical High Mass — The Third Sunday of Advent
Luncheon for all follows in the Great Hall

Tuesday, December 16 — 8:30 a.m. — Morning Prayer — Advent feria
Lectionary Study Group follows in Cranmer House at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 17 — 9:00 a.m. — Low Mass — Advent feria/Ember Day

Thursday, December 18 — 6:00 p.m. — The Holy Eucharist, Rite I, with Healing — Advent feria

Friday, December 19 — Noon — Low Mass — Advent feria/Ember Day

Sunday, December 21 — 9:15 a.m. — The Rosary
10:00 a.m. — Solemn High Mass — The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Greening of the Church follows

WELCOME VISITORS! — We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our visitors today. Whether you live in our area and decided to worship with us today or if you are visiting from out of town, we offer you a warm Georgian welcome! There are visitor cards in most of the pews and we ask that you fill one out and give it to the Greeters at the door or simply drop it in the offering plate. We'd love to see you again. Our website, www.stgeorgesschenectady.org.

AFTER CHURCH LUNCHEON— After today's special Mass please join us in the Great Hall for a luncheon provided by the Society of Mary

Parish Life and Beyond

THE ROSARY — Next Sunday, December 21st, the Society of Mary will gather just before Mass at 9:15 a.m. in the Lady Chapel to pray the Rosary. All are invited to join in this devotion in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

THE GREENING OF THE CHURCH — Next Sunday after Mass we will decorate the church for Christmas. This is both a work project and a time of fellowship as we put up the trees and greens around the church for Christmastide. Refreshments will be available in the Great Hall.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND GREENS MEMORIALS/THANKSGIVINGS — Each year we decorate the church with poinsettias and Christmas greenery for the Christmas season. You are invited to make a contribution in memory or thanksgiving of someone to offset the costs of these decorations. Please send your memorial/thanksgiving names to the church office at secretary@stgeorgesschenectady.org and then either place a check in the collection plate or send a check to the church. Memorials and Thanksgivings will be listed in the bulletins for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please send your names and make your contributions by Thursday, December 18th.

CHRISTMAS EVE RECEPTION — After our "Midnight Mass" on Christmas Eve we have a festive reception in the Great Hall. We are seeking sweet and savory finger food for this reception. A sign-up list is in the back of the church for those who wish to contribute food for the feast.

Around the Diocese

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE — For some, the holiday time is not a happy or joyful time but one which brings back difficult memories such as the loss of a loved one or traumatic incident. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Schenectady will be offering a "Blue Christmas Service" on Wednesday, December 17th, at 7:30 p.m. for those who would like to mark the holiday in a different way, addressing the pain that may be highlighted during this time. All are welcome to attend this service.