THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Holy Eucharist Rite Two

Processional Hymn

"On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry" (verses 1-3)



The Word of God

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant and People

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Lord have mercy.

People: Christ have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 forever. *Amen*.

Liturgy of the Word

First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9

Lector A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence — as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

A period of silence follows.

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; * shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, * stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O LORD God of hosts, *

how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; * you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, * and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, * the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; * give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Lector A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel of the Day: Mark 13:24-37

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he † is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you,

this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon The Rev. John D. Sutton

The Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Let us affirm our faith by saying together:

Leader and People

We believe in the God of Life, who creates and loves people, who acts in history and who promises never to leave us alone.

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who is our brother, who wants not to be idolized but to be followed.

We believe that we dwell in the presence of the Holy Spirit; without it we are nothing; filled with it we are able to become creative, lively and free.

We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ, a community where we find companions and courage for the struggles of life, where we grow in our understanding of the faith, through worship, prayer, nurture, and service.

We believe that God has a use for us in this time and place, that though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we are called to be instruments of God's peace.

We believe in living, hoping, laughing, and enjoying the good of the earth;

We believe that people can change, and God keeps pulling us to life and a new world of joy and peace.

The Prayers of the People, Form I

Leader With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy." Leader For God's many blessings we give our thanks. For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. **People** Lord, have mercy. For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all Leader peoples, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy. **People** For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Marc our Bishop, for John, T. C., Naomi and for all the clergy Leader and people, let us pray to the Lord. People Lord, have mercy. Leader In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Lusitanian Church, Portugal. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Andrews's, San Bruno and St. Clement's, Berkeley. Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy. People For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. Leader **People** Lord, have mercy. Leader For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. People Lord, have mercy. Leader In the St. Anselm's Cycle of Prayer we pray for our acolytes, let us pray to the Lord. People Lord, have mercy. For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord. Leader **People** Lord, have mercy. For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to Leader the Lord. People Lord, have mercy. For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord. Leader People Lord, have mercy. Leader For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord. People Lord, have mercy. Leader For all who are in need of our prayers, let us pray to the Lord. **People** Lord, have mercy. For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and Leader

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for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

People

Lord, have mercy.

Leader For all who have died, in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the

Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Leader For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Leader For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Leader That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to

the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Leader Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

People Lord, have mercy.

Leader In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to

Christ our God.

People To you, O Lord our God.

Celebrant

I invite your prayers of petition and thanksgiving at this time, either silently or aloud. When you have concluded, please say "In Your Mercy" to which the congregation is invited to respond "Hear Our Prayer."

Participants are invited to offer their own prayers at this time.

Closing Collect

Celebrant

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Celebrant

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:29-31

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen*.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements

At this time, the Celebrant may make announcements.

Prayers for Individuals

Participants now pray for those who have notified the church in advance of their birthdays and/or anniversaries.

Prayer for Birthdays: O Lord, watch over your children as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Anniversaries: O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true Godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The Holy Communion

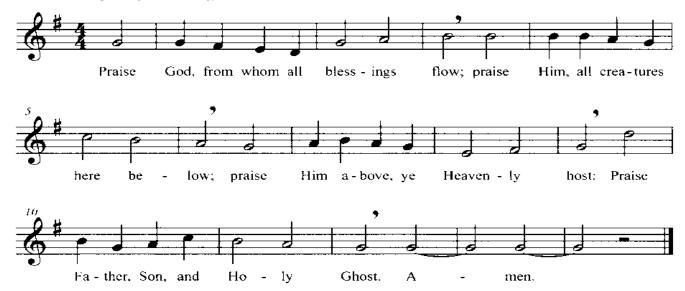
The Offertory

Celebrant

Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God *Hebrews 13:15,16*

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant and People sing the Doxology



Eucharistic Prayer B

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift up your hearts.PeopleWe lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

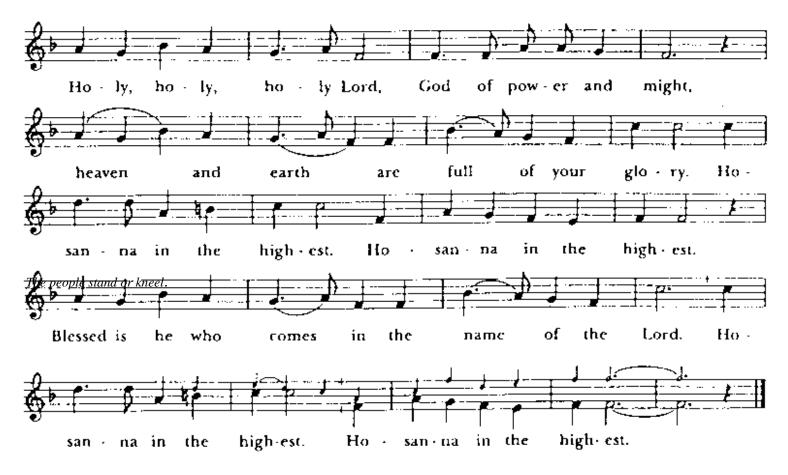
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your 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 we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Celebrant

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the 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.

Celebrant

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your 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 your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

Celebrant and People

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: As Christ teaches us we pray:

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 forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant

The peace which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUTREACH SUNDAY

Next Sunday, December 6th will be our annual Outreach Sunday. Since we aren't gathering in-person to "vote" as we have in previous years, everyone is invited to help us allocate the 2020 St. Anselm's outreach monies. The attached form (last page of today's service leaflet) provides a brief description of the eight charities we have previously supported. Please indicate in 10% increments, the portion of the outreach budget you would like to see allocated to each agency. Then, please email the form back to Cathy Witkay at cathy.w@stanselms.ws no later than December 6th. Once all votes are tallied, we will determine the amount to be distributed to each charity.

FORWARD DAY-BY-DAY

The November/December/January of *Forward Day-by-Day* has arrived. If you would like a copy mailed to your home address, please email Cathy Witkay at cathy.w@stanselms.ws. These will be available on a first come, first served basis.

VENMO ACCOUNT INFORMATION

St. Anselm's continues to maintain a Venmo account so you can transfer funds directly to the church via your smart phone. If you would like instructions on how to do so, please email Cathy Witkay at cathy.w@stanselms.ws. Alternatively, you can always donate by sending a check to the church. The mailing address is: 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549 Thank you!

COVID-19 TESTING AND FLU SHOTS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

With COVID-19 still in our community, it's more important than ever to get your flu shot this year. People can become sick with COVID-19 and the flu at the same time, so getting a flu shot is one thing we all can do to ease our minds and protect our community.

Flu vaccination is the best protection against influenza and people who get flu shots tend to get less sick than people who do not. That means that more people stay healthy and we lessen the strain on our hospitals and healthcare systems.

Contra Costa Health Services is now offering free flu shots with COVID-19 tests at some of our COVID-19 testing sites to make it even easier for you and your loved ones to stay healthy this season. We'll also be hosting a series of free flu-vaccination clinics for the community.

Flu shots are also now available at many pharmacies, retail stores and through healthcare providers, such as Kaiser. Click here to find flu vaccines near you.

For more information about flu including tips to stay healthy, visit cchealth.org/flu.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

If you would like to have an emergency contact registered with St. Anselm's, please contact Cathy Witkay in the office with their information and we will keep it on file.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8. If you would like to receive the readings on a weekly basis, please contact Cathy Witkay in the office.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Sally Roberts Lee Seletzky

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS:

<u>November 30th – Sacred Ground</u> will be facilitated by Anne Brown from 10:30 a.m. to noon. To be invited, email Anne at annechalfantbrown@gmail.com or Cathy Witkay at cathy.w@stanselms.ws.

<u>December 1st – Grief Support Group will</u> meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Father John at suttonj@comcast.net.

<u>December 1st – Sacred Ground</u> will be facilitated by Marian Mulkey from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. To be invited, email Marian at marianmulkey@comcast.net or Cathy Witkay at cathy.w@stanselms.ws.

<u>December 2nd -- Morning Prayer</u> will be led by Deacon Naomi via Zoom at 9 a.m. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

<u>December 6th -- Cancer Support Group</u> will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at jrjpmaggie@hotmail.com.

<u>December 7th – Sacred Ground</u> will be facilitated by Anne Brown from 10:30 a.m. to noon. To be invited, email Anne at annechalfantbrown@gmail.com or Cathy Witkay at cathy.w@stanselms.ws.

<u>December 7th -- Vestry</u> will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. Vestry members will receive an email from Father John with the meeting link.

OUTREACH SUNDAY CHARITABLE ALLOCATIONS

Percent to Allocate (10% increments)	Charity Description
	Bay Area Crisis Nursery: The Bay Area Crisis Nursery was established to help prevent child abuse and neglect by providing supportive services to families. Our primary service is providing a warm, loving, homelike environment for children from birth through 5 years of age by offering 24-hour care and emergency childcare services. Our services are free, confidential, and voluntary. The Nursery is a magical place for children and families!
	Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano: Started in 1975, the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano stores and distributes donated and purchased perishable and nonperishable food items. We distribute food directly to low-income people at community sites and make food available for other nonprofit organizations serving the ill, needy and children. The Food Bank works to reduce food waste, feed hungry people and raise public awareness of issues related to food and hunger.
	Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County: The Interfaith Council was originally organized for the primary purpose of providing chaplaincy ministries in various county institutions on behalf of local congregations. The Council became interfaith in 1997, widening its membership to include congregations and faith organizations that represent the growing pluralistic population of Contra Costa County. The council remains committed to supporting the religions and communities in our county.
	Loaves & Fishes of Contra Costa: The mission of Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa is to provide community-based food programs and partner services that focus on basic needs. We are the largest provider of hot meals to the hungry in Contra Costa County, serving over 138,000 hot meals this fiscal year in five dining rooms.
	Mobility Matters: Mobility Matters provides mobility management services in Contra Costa County. Mobility Matters is facilitating collaboration and coordination between public and private transportation providers, creating a network of integrated options that primarily address the mobility needs of seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income individuals. During the current pandemic, Mobility Matters is providing transportation for medical and grocery needs.
	St. Dorothy's Rest: St. Dorothy's Rest is a 380-acre camp and retreat center in Sonoma County, about an hour north of San Francisco along the famed Bohemian Highway. The oldest camp in California, St. Dot's has been serving children and adults from all faiths and all walks of life for over 100 years. St. Dorothy's Rest provided a virtual summer camp in 2020 and is operating with limited staff.
	STAND!: STAND! For Families Free of Violence is committed to promoting safe and strong families. Our approach to eliminating family violence is well-rounded and community-wide. In addition to providing a complete spectrum of prevention, intervention, and treatment programs, we also enlist the efforts of local residents, partners, and institutions, all of whom are striving with us to stop domestic violence and child abuse.
	<u>VESTIA:</u> The mission of VESTIA, Inc. (Volunteer & Emergency Services Team in Action) is to provide supplemental support to at risk individuals and families known to the Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD), when no other resources are available. VESTIA works in partnership with this department in the development of the nonprofit's funding criteria, fundraising sources, and policies and procedures.