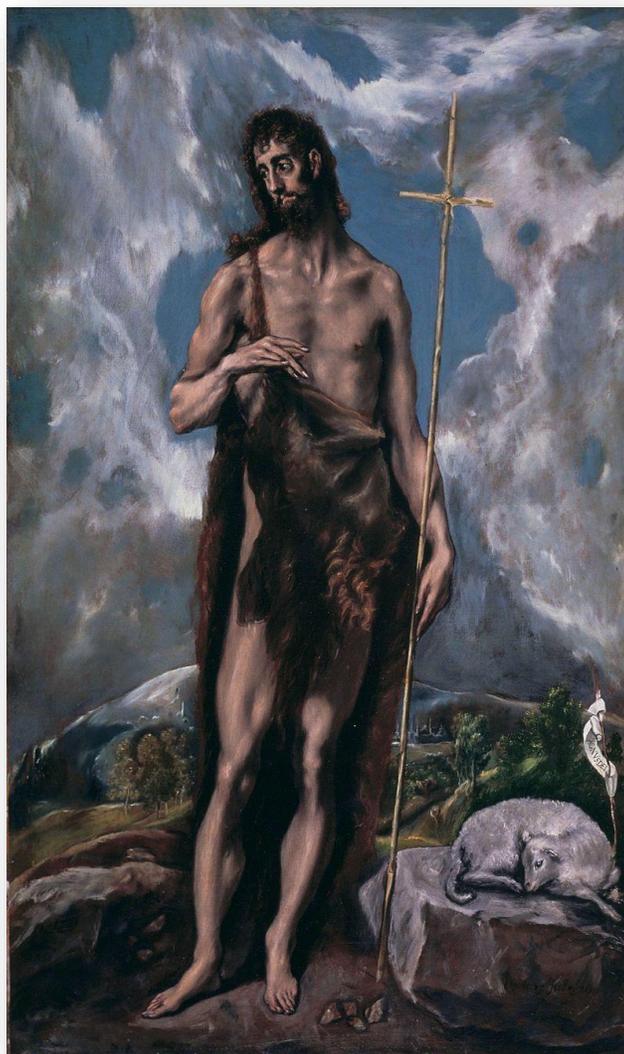


The Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021 • 9:00 A.M.



Sunday Services

8:00 A.M. - Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 A.M. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:00 A.M. – Morning Prayer, Rite I
Holy Eucharist, Rite I (1st Sundays each month)

Weekday Services

Monday – Friday

7:30 A.M. – Morning Prayer, Rite I
6:00 P.M. – Evening Prayer, Rite I

St. John's Episcopal Church | 100 South Main Street | P. O. Box 5068 | Southampton, New York 11969-5068

StJohnSouthampton.org | Facebook: StJohnSouthampton

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Processional Hymn 76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Opening Acclamation

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

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

Collect of Purity

The Celebrant says

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.**

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Hymn of Praise

Gloria in Excelsis

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.

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 Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

A Reading from the Book of the prophet Malachi

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.

The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Song of Zechariah

Canticle 16

Luke 1: 68-79

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

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

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

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

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

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

74 You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

75 To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

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

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

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

A Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

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.

The Word of the Lord

People

Thanks be to God

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Gospel Hymn 65

Prepare the Way, O Zion



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Celebrant
People

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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,

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and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev'd W. Patrick Edwards

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary
and was made man**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

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Prayers of the People. (Form VI)

Leader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

Leader For all people in their daily life and work;

People **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

Leader For this community, the nation, and the world; we pray for those who govern and hold authority in this and every land, especially Joseph, our President, Kathy, our Governor, and Jesse, our Mayor;

People **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Leader For the just and proper use of your creation;

People **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Leader For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Leader For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

Leader For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael the Presiding Bishop, and Lawrence our Bishop and for all bishops and other ministers;

People **For all who serve God in his Church.**

Leader For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Leader Hear us, Lord;

People **For your mercy is great.**

Leader We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

Leader We will exalt you, O God our King;

People **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Leader We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Leader Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People **Who put their trust in you.**

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Leader We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins, devoutly kneeling.
Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Absolution

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

Officiant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer A

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

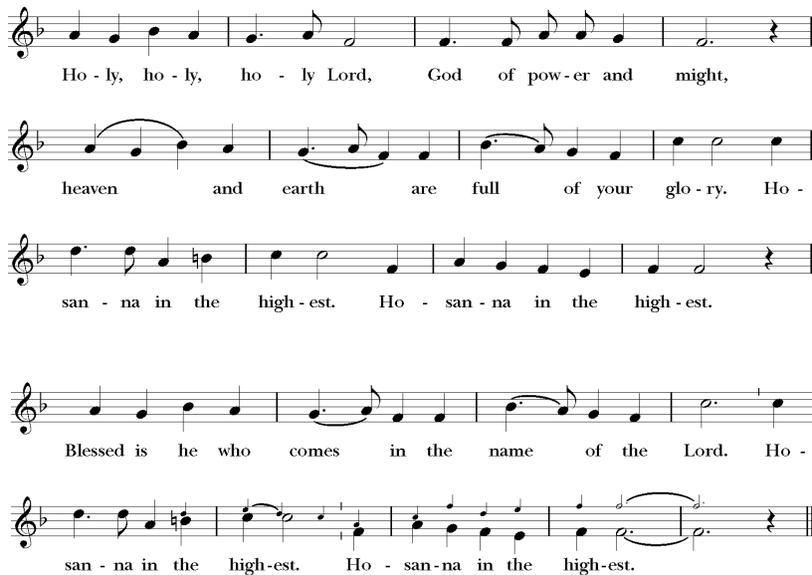
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where 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

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our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit

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to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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 and People

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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The Invitation to Communion (BCP 364)

The Priest invites the people to Communion

Priest

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.

Postcommunion Hymn 314

Humbly I adore thee

1 Hum - bly I a - dore thee, Ver - i - ty un - seen,
2 Taste and touch and vi - sion to dis - cern thee fail;
3 O me - mo - rial won - drous of the Lord's own death;
4 Je - sus, whom now hid - den, I by faith be - hold,
who thy glo - ry hid - est 'neath these sha - dows mean;
faith, that comes by hear - ing, pierc - es through the veil.
liv - ing Bread that giv - est all thy crea - tures breath,
what my soul doth long for, that thy word fore - told:
lo, to thee sur - ren - dered, my whole heart is bowed,
I be - lieve what - e'er the Son of God hath told;
grant my spi - rit ev - er by thy life may live,
face to face thy splen - dor, I at last shall see,
tranced as it be - holds thee, shrined with - in the cloud.
what the Truth hath spo - ken, that for truth I hold.
to my taste thy sweet - ness nev - er - fail - ing give.
in the glo - rious vi - sion, bless - ed Lord, of thee.

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

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Closing Hymn 67

Comfort, comfort ye my people



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him.
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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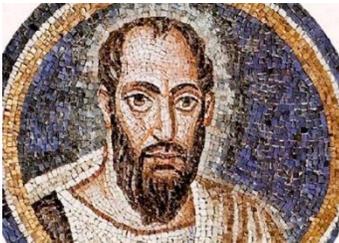


Dedications

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of
Derek James Roessle-Meerman by his Family.



Verse of the Week



“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.”

Philippians 1: 6

“ *Quote of the Week* ”



“Death was not part of nature; it became part of nature. God did not decree death from the beginning; he prescribed it as a remedy. Human life was .condemned because of sin to unremitting labour and unbearable sorrow and so began to experience the burden of wretchedness. There had to be a limit to its evils; death had to restore what life had forfeited. Without the assistance of grace, immortality is more of a burden than a blessing.”

St. Ambrose
Bishop of Milan and theologian

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Announcements



This year's Christmas Eve Children's Service will be held at 2:00 P.M. at St. Andrew's Dune Church. Interested families can contact Lisa Gillespie through email at lisag0057@aol.com.

Children of all ages are welcome. The littlest ones can play sheep or donkeys in the pageant.

Help us to maintain our prayer intercession list.

The personal and collective intercessions we make asking our Lord to intercede in our lives and on behalf of others are a central aspect of our private and common worship. At St. John's we have always made an aural reading of our prayer list a part of our regular services. However, there comes with this an important responsibility to maintain it as current and accurate. To accomplish this we are asking our community to take that personal responsibility to heart in the following way:

We ask everyone to please let us know when someone should be added, removed, or otherwise amended on our prayer list. This is accomplished best by either dropping a note in the collection plate or by emailing or calling the parish secretary at (631) 283-0549 or at secretary@stjohnsouthampton.org.

To avoid a name being orphaned on the prayer list names will be removed after 60 days of being added, unless the parish secretary is contacted to extend that time for another 60 days.

Of course, there is no limit to the number of persons we will faithfully include on our prayer list, nor a limit to the duration we will intercede on their behalf. This policy is to take special care in maintaining the names we bring before the Throne of Grace in prayer each time we gather together.

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St. John's Episcopal Church
Christmas Season Schedule

Christmas Eve
St Andrew's Dune Church
2:00PM Children's Service and Pageant
7:00PM Choral Holy Eucharist

St John's Episcopal Church
9:00PM Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day
10:00AM Holy Eucharist

The First Sunday after Christmas, Boxing Day
8:00AM Morning Prayer and Sermon
9:00AM Morning Prayer and Sermon
11:00AM Morning Prayer and Sermon

Second Sunday after Christmas
8:00AM Holy Eucharist
9:00AM Holy Eucharist
11:00AM Holy Eucharist

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In the Gospels, Christ, hearing of the imprisonment of Saint John the Baptist, honors him. “Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist.” Yet, in the Gospel according to Saint John, when learning that Christ is rising in the esteem and excitement of the people eclipsing him, John the Baptist says, “Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.” John is prominently mentioned in the contemporary history of the Jews. The Antiquities of the Jews by Flavius Josephus barely mentions Christ, but John was described as a prophet whose message was universally accepted and his virtue made his martyrdom a cause of God’s judgement against Herod. It is the prophetic identity and ministry of John the Baptist that fit the expectations of people and historians in the world he knew, and this made his impact more significant for his peers. But in the centuries since then he has diminished just as Christ has increased. What has changed? As Christ said immediately after praising him above, “the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” Surely John is a member of the Kingdom of God, but what He means here is that the life of the Christian is greater than the life of even the greatest of Israel’s prophets. Prophets are called to be the mouthpieces of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit for a moment in time to speak God’s words and judgement. They fulfill a role, and then disappear. But, the Christian is empowered by the Holy Spirit for not merely a role or moment, but to be changed. We are redeemed by Christ’s sacrifice, we are promised eternal life by His resurrection, but through the agency of the Holy Spirit we become new people, perfected into the image and ministry of Christ, and adopted as children of God and inheritors into His kingdom. When Christ descended to the Dead, among those whom He brought into paradise was John the Baptist. John, like the Blessed Virgin Mary, needed Christ’s redemption and resurrection to enter into the Kingdom of God. John could only prophesy in his earthly ministry to Christ, but with us now he can join Christ in His eternal priesthood and share in the kingdom of God. There could be no greater man born of woman, but, we and John, born by water and the Spirit, aspire to so much more

For Pastoral Emergencies, please contact Fr. Patrick at 404-660-3592.

Cover: *John the Baptist in the wilderness* by El Greco in the Legion of Honor Museum, San Francisco

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